

Not Macho Enough? **WHY RAZOR RAMON
IS AFRAID OF THE
WORLD TITLE**

Inside



MARCH 1995

INSIDE WRESTLING

Wrestling

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

PREDICTIONS

1

9

9

5

STING



SHAWN MICHAELS



THE UNDERTAKER



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03

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Inside Wrestling®

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- 4 SINCERELY YOURS**
Give Me A Break; Controversy Continues; Dangerous Comment
- 6 REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK by Stu Saks**
Even after accomplishing so much, Hulk Hogan looks ahead
- 8 NAMES MAKIN' NEWS by Bill Apter**
All the latest gossip from around the wrestling world
- 10 ON THE ROAD with Chris Bernucca**
A columnist offers his choices for year-end awards
- 12 BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR by David Rosenbaum**
Want predictions for 1995? Ask the wrestlers themselves
- 14 THE INSIDER by Eddie Ellner**
The rulebreakers' friend reacts to some recent news items
- 16 ON ASSIGNMENT by Liz Hunter**
What happens when a female reporter tries to enter a locker room
- 18 CAPSULE PROFILE #225**
A glance at the career of The Honky Tonk Man
- 20 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
What happened to some of wrestling's biggest stars
- 22 NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS**
Highlight matches from important recent cards
- 24 MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING**
Traveling the world with our legendary columnist
- 26 TASMANIAC: WRESTLING'S MANIACAL MASTER OF THE SUPLEX**
You won't believe how—and where—this madman learned that maneuver
- 30 NOT MACHO ENOUGH?**
WHY RAZOR RAMON IS AFRAID OF THE WORLD TITLE
The I-C belt is great, but isn't it time he set higher goals?
- 34 WRESTLING'S TOP STARS**
WHAT 1995 HAS IN STORE FOR THEM
For some, it will be a year to shine. For others ...
- 42 THE NASTY BOYS: "TAG TEAM DROUGHT? KISS OUR BUTTS!"**
The 1994 PWI Tag Team of the Year speaks out in "Hotseat"
- 46 KID & MAN O' WAR**
LIGHTWEIGHT FLYERS WITH HEAVYWEIGHT HOPES!
They could be the great young tag team the WWF needs
- 50 "MY PLAN TO REVIVE BRIAN PILLMAN'S CAREER by Hulk Hogan**
The "Hulkster" wants to put the Air back in Air Pillman
- 54 ONE ON ONE: STEVE AUSTIN VS. HACKSAW DUGGAN**
They're still bickering over the WCW U.S. title
- 64 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
The top 15 rankings in six key categories
- 65 INSIDE WRESTLING ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**
Listing the champions from the various federations
- 66 BLAST FROM THE PAST**
The Student learns a very painful lesson

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Sincerely Yours

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GIVE ME A BREAK!

The Winter 1994 **INSIDE WRESTLING** lists Bret Hart as Wrestler of the Half-Decade. Give me a break! On page 28, you wrote "Bret is too humble to brag about his success." Actually, it is Bret's motto that he is "the best there is, the best there ever was, and the best there ever will be."

You call that modest? I wouldn't.

RICHARD BROWN
Detroit, MI

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

How do you win a title match? Either by pinfall or submission, right? In the case of Mr. Bob Backlund, he neither submitted nor was pinned when he was robbed of the WWF World title in 1983! That no-good manager Arnold Skaaland threw in the towel? This isn't boxing, Arnie. The WWF's

"New Generation" and its loyal followers don't seem to realize that. They should all read the wrestling rulebook. Backlund *should* still be champ.

Bob Backlund should be commended for his actions against the "New WWF Generation." I fully agree with Backlund and so should all of you who ostracize

him for his recent actions. Have a little compassion for Mr. Backlund.

SCOTT DODSON
Largo, FL

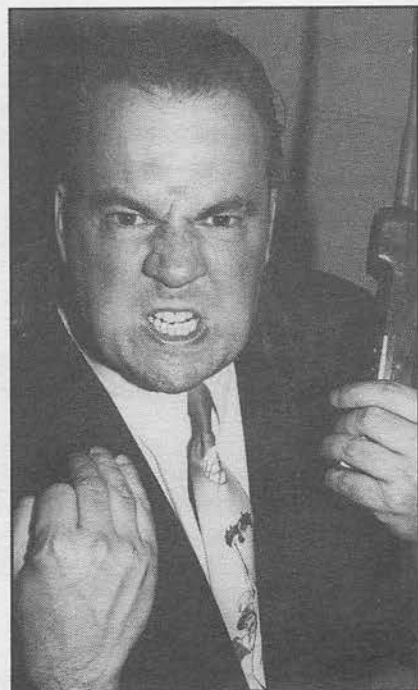
DANGEROUS COMMENT

I was appalled at Paul E. Dangerously's callous comment about the O.J. Simpson case ("O.J.: Guilty Or Innocent? Wrestlers Speak Out," Winter 1994). I can't believe that you printed the trash that came from his big mouth. Someone's life is not something to take lightly. I wonder if Dangerously would feel the same way if he were in the same position as Simpson. I don't think so. Someone needs to teach that managerial joke a lesson. His comments were totally uncalled for. Please do the fans a favor: The next time you take an opinion poll, leave Dangerously out of it!

JIMMY NANCE
Asheboro, NC



Bret Hart (clotheslining Doink the Clown) isn't as humble as he'd like everyone to believe, points out reader Richard Brown. He doesn't think "The Hitman" deserved **INSIDE WRESTLING**'s Wrestler of the Half-Decade award.



Paul E. Dangerously's callous comment about the O.J. Simpson case was disturbing to reader Jimmy Nance. He suggests Dangerously be left out the next time an important opinion poll is taken.

WWF SIDESHOW?

Is it me, or is there something seriously wrong with the WWF? Whatever happened to the great talent that the WWF used to have? What has Vince McMahon been doing lately? The federation is turning into a carnival sideshow. There are clowns, a race car driver, a rapper, a baseball player, a tax collector, a confused Indian, and worst of all, a trash man!

Vince, get some new talent that can actually wrestle soon, or you'll

be going on the road with Ringling Brothers!

JESSE BAKER
Lanham, MD

GLORY HOG

Well, Hulk Hogan has lied and conned his way to another world title. Now he joins the late Buddy Rogers and, the best of all-time, Ric Flair, as the only men to have won the WWF and NWA/WCW titles. Well, that much may be true, but Hogan will never, ever be the champion that Rogers or Flair

was. It's a shame that Hogan got a title match in his very first match in WCW, while other great stars like Big Van Vader, Steve Austin, and Sting were overlooked just so "Glory Hog" could have one more day in the spotlight. I used to like WCW, but when guys like Hogan, Hacksaw Duggan, and Johnny B. Badd are major champions, it sickens me.

Wrestling is in a sorry state these days, and I can only hope that men like Vader, Sabu, and Sid Vicious will someday soon rule the top spots in this sport. Just thinking about Vader powerbombing Hogan on a cement floor like he did to Cactus Jack a while ago makes me feel a little better. I hope that day comes soon. *Real* soon.

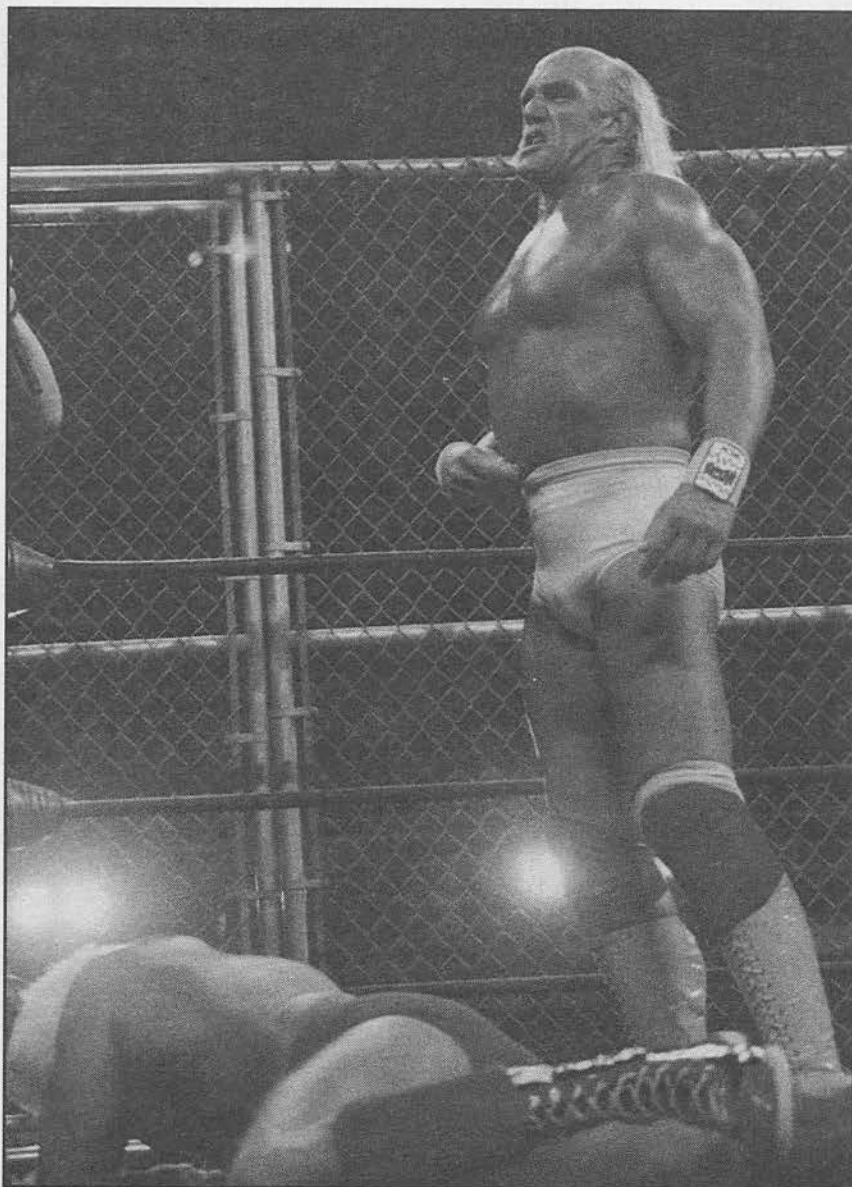
JOHN TEEMAN
Kalamazoo, MI

CHANGE OF HART

I just read your "Hotseat" interview with Jimmy Hart (January 1995) and I still find myself wondering about his "change of heart." He speaks about his alliance with Hulk Hogan sounding sincere, but is he really true to his words? I have trouble believing so. He says that he's a changed man, but I feel that he may be misguiding his newfound followers. A recent chain of events may give clues to his farce.

At Halloween Havoc, Hulk Hogan was viciously attacked by his former best friend, Brutus Beefcake. Hogan was left beaten by Beefcake, Kevin Sullivan, and Avalanche, but where was Hart? He was conveniently knocked out at ringside. It seems too coincidental that Hart, who led Beefcake to a tag team title earlier in his career, would now be siding with the one man who has always

(Continued on page 56)



Seeing Hulk Hogan as WCW World champion doesn't please reader John Teeman, who says the "Hulkster" should never be compared favorably to past world champions such as Ric Flair and Buddy Rogers.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Hulk Hogan has won so many awards, he designated a 20 x 30 room in his Tampa mansion to display all the plaques and trophies. He rarely enters the room, however. Awards, you see, represent past accomplishments, and Hulk Hogan is a man who lives his life only in the present and future tenses.

"Don't get me wrong," he told me as he pointed out the location of his *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Wrestler of the Year trophy and Comeback of the Year plaque. "These awards mean an awful lot to me, especially because it is the fans who make the selections. But for an athlete—anybody, really—to keep his head screwed on straight, he has to keep it turned in the right direction. A great man once said, 'Don't look back, somebody might be gaining on you,' and at this point in my life, I kinda know what that's all about."

That great man was pitcher Satchel Paige, and while Hogan can certainly learn from the Negro League legend, only a man who makes his living in hand-to-hand combat can relate to what the "Hulkster" went through in 1994. "Look," Hogan told me, "don't put me in the class of George Foreman. The man was out of boxing for 10 years, hadn't won a title in 22 years, and he comes back to beat a 26-year-old in the prime of his life. But it's still all about responding to challenges."

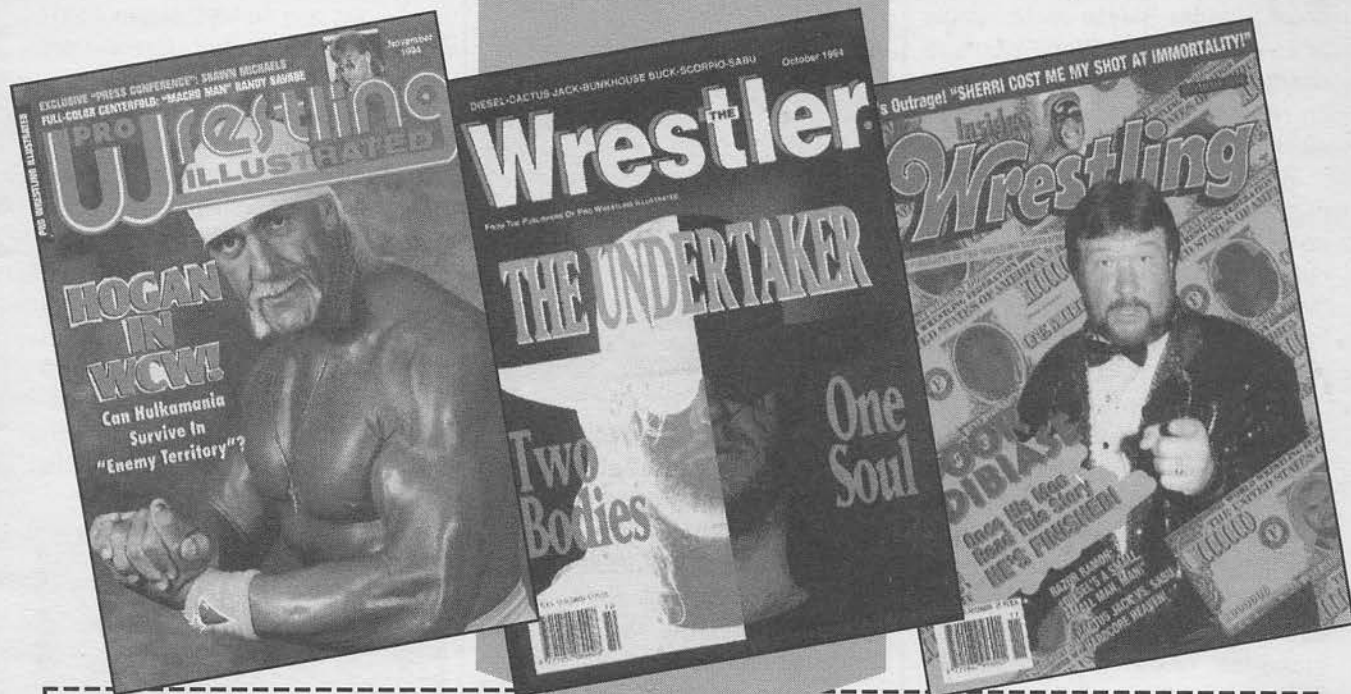
Tell an athlete he can't do something, and the great ones—the truly great ones—will respond as Hogan did. Ric Flair did it in 1993. Bob Backlund is doing it as I write. The trophies and plaques are great, but they tend to attract dust.

"The same can be said about most athletes," Hogan joked.

Maybe in 1996 or '97, he'll have time to shine the hardware that fills the 20 x 30 room. Right now he's more concerned with the hardware that fills his waistline.

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NAMES MA

BULL NAKANO SHOCKED the world when she pinned **Alundra Blayze** on November 20 to win the WWF World Women's championship. The match took place on Nakano's home turf, in front of 42,000 fans at the Tokyo Dome.

Blayze, who had defeated Nakano numerous times in the States, made no excuses. She told our Japanese correspondent, **Koichi Yoshizawa**, "Nakano is a great competitor. Yes, I lost the belt, but I'll get it back real soon."

Hulk Hogan has asked WCW talent scouts to take a good look at his nephew, **Horace Boulder**, who has been wrestling mainly in Japan the past few years. Boulder is back state-side for a series of matches against **Vladimir Kholoff** ... **Bill Dundee**, who used to be **Lord Steven Regal's** manager (then known as **Sir William**), is glad to be back in the USWA, where he is wrestling again. Dundee was asked by his good friends **Jerry Lawler** and **Brian**



BILL DUNDEE

Christopher to return to the scene of some of his greatest battles. He is helping them fight it out with **Tommy Rich**, **Doug Gilbert**, **Troy Graham**, and other hated USWA mainstays.

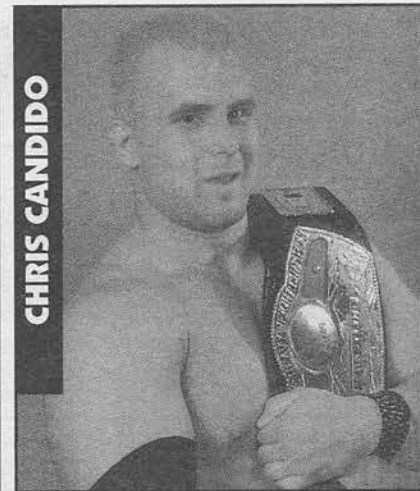
I still can't believe it. **Jim Cornette** can't live with the fact that **The Gangstas** refused to let him manage them, so he has asked **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** to let him manage them for several bouts against **Mustafa Saed** and **New Jack!** I hope **Ricky Morton** and **Robert Gibson** know what they're getting themselves into. Watch your backs, guys!

Former NWA World champion **Dory Funk Jr.** says that **Chris Candido** would do his career a lot of good if he dumped **Tammy Fytch**. Meanwhile, Fytch is bragging that the belt is hers, giving almost no credit to Candido for his victories over three competitors (**Al Snow**, "**Dirty White Boy**" **Tony Anthony**, and **Tracey Smothers**) in the one-night tourney that he won to capture the vacant NWA title.

Ivan Putski is coming out of retirement (again!) to compete in IWCCW during the early part of '95 ... Caught reading a copy of *CountryBeat* maga-

zine, **Tony Anthony** revealed that he always wanted to be a country singer, but "I can't sing on key!" Not to worry, **Tony**, neither can **Jeff Jarrett** from what I hear!

The Smokin' Gunns are impressing WWF promoters with victories over **The Heavenly Bodies**. **Billy** and **Bart** hope to get a shot at the tag title soon ... Still reeling from a loss to **Harlem Heat** at Clash of the Champions XXIX, **The Nasty Boys** say that their revenge will be "short and very violent." They also vow to rearrange **Sherri Martel's** facial features. That may be going a bit far, guys! ... USWA champion **Sid**

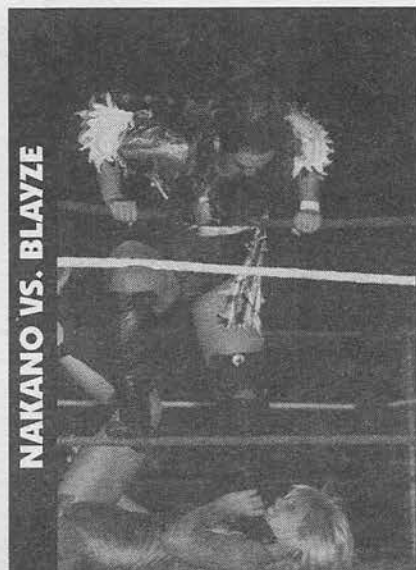


CHRIS CANDIDO

Vicious tells me that he could have beaten **The Undertaker** without help from **Spellbinder**, and has asked **Spellbinder** not to interfere in his matches.

"**Terrible**" **Terry Austin** was fined \$500 when a referee caught him using brass knuckles on PWF heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion**.

Eddie Gilbert hosts his own radio talk show on a station in Jackson, Tennessee. His guests have included



NAKANO VS. BLAYZE

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter



LUNA & VAMPIRE

TV stars, local newsmakers, and, of course, a few wrestlers. Eddie still competes on occasion ... **Curley Moe** is still missing in action. Anyone who knows where to find him, please let me know ... "**Man o' War**" **Aldo Montoya** and **The Kid** make a spectacular team ... **Paul Orndorff** has been asked by **Kevin Sullivan** to join his Faces of Fear mob. Sullivan and company want to destroy Hulk Hogan and all of his friends. "Mr. Wonderful" has yet to accept. As you know, Orndorff and Hogan were good friends until a misunderstanding led to 1986's Feud of the Year.

Congratulations to **Luna Vachon** on her marriage to **Vampire Warrior**. They got hitched this past Halloween. Appropriate ... **Sabu** may take his new tag team partner **Tasmaniac** on a tour of Japan with him. Sabu's mentor, **The Sheik**, has already put his stamp of approval on Tas ... **Buddy Landell** still preaches at several Southern churches on the days he's not battling Tommy Rich in the USWA ... **Arnold Skaaland**, who is 71 years old, told me he wishes that WWF pro-

motors would let him get into the ring so he could teach **Bob Backlund** a thing or two. I think (hope?) he was kidding ... **Tony Rumble** has **Tony Atlas** in heavy training and will not let the press talk to Atlas about it. Rumble says he has big plans for the former "Mr. U.S.A.," but he won't give any specific details just yet.

Road Warrior Hawk is feuding with arch-rival **The Warlord** in several independent federations ... **Pierre** wants **Quebecer Jacques Rougeau** to come out of retirement and let him get even for the beating Jacques handed him in his retirement match in Montreal a few months ago. I thought their handshake at the conclusion of the match looked a bit on the tense side ... **Capt. Lou Albano** reports that **Samu** will be back in action soon and will rejoin **Sionne** and **Fatu** in the WWF ... Someone counted 'em. There are **eight Doinks** competing around the wrestling world. I haven't gotten an accurate count on how many **Dinks** there are.

Razor Ramon is considering taking a month-long vacation at his

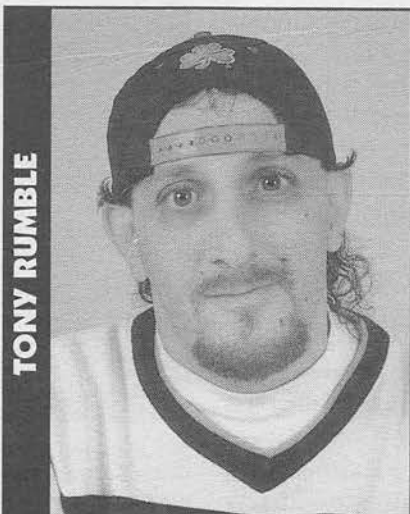
Florida villa to refresh himself. This past year has been a real brutal one for the two-time Intercontinental champ ... **Axl** and **Ian Rotten** have been arguing a lot lately. Come on guys, let's not see another brother vs. brother feud ... **Sam Colt** took seven stitches to the head after his barbed-wire match against **Rawhead Rex**. Seems to me it should have been the other way around.



ELIZABETH

Sgt. Slaughter is about to hit the independent trail again ... **George "The Animal" Steele** has received offers from three movie producers after they saw his performance in *Ed Wood* ... **Jeff Jarrett** and **Jim Neidhart** are still dressing on separate ends of WWF locker rooms. **Owen Hart** is trying to get their friendship back on line, but neither seems receptive to the idea ... Yes, WCW wants to bring **Elizabeth**, **Randy Savage's** ex-wife, into the federation. But at this time, talks have broken down and it might not happen.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □



TONY RUMBLE

OUR SISTER PUBLICATION *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* offers our readers the opportunity to vote for wrestlers in a variety of year-end categories. As writers and editors, we are not allowed to participate in the balloting. So as another year of wrestling comes to a close, I am casting my ballots here.

Rookie of the Year: There was actually a good crop this year, most of them from Extreme Championship Wrestling. I chose 911 over Abbudah Singh, based on a personal preference of style. I have never been a big fan of The Sheik or Abdullah the Butcher and the bloodbaths in which they are often involved. That is not to say that 911 is a technical marvel, either, but at least he has some potential to improve. He also benefited from Paul E. Dangerously's managerial genius, although that can have diminishing returns over the long run.

Most Improved Wrestler of the Year: Consider this: Don MacLean lifted his scoring average from five points per game to 16 points per game and was the NBA's Most Improved Player. But what about Latrell Sprewell? He lifted his average from 15 points per game to 22 points per game. It's much tougher to go from good to very good than it is to go from mediocre to good. Using that logic, Razor Ramon is the Most Improved Wrestler of the Year. He made the jump to champion in late-1993 and became a two-time I-C titleholder in 1994.

Most Popular Wrestler of the Year: The winner of this award is supposed to be the wrestler who receives the most unwavering cheers from the crowd. Personal preference is not supposed to factor into the decision. Using that guideline, Bret Hart and Sting have cornered the market, and Sting gets the nod because he is not feuding with his brother.

Most Hated Wrestler of the Year: I ran into a big problem here, because many of the wrestlers nominated—Arn Anderson, Diesel, Ric Flair, Shawn Michaels, and Big Van Vader, to name a few—are wrestlers I like. The Gangstas, the Smoky Mountain tag team champs, might be a good choice, however. I can't remember the last time that the words or deeds of a wrestler forced television stations and advertisers to pull their support of a wrestling program. Of course, someone will probably accuse me of racism for my selection.

Inspirational Wrestler of the Year: Since becoming a wrestling writer three years ago, I have been amused, appalled, surprised, and disappointed by the actions of the athletes. Unfortunately, I have never been inspired by a wrestler. My cat will complete a crossword puzzle before a 1990s athlete—in any

ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

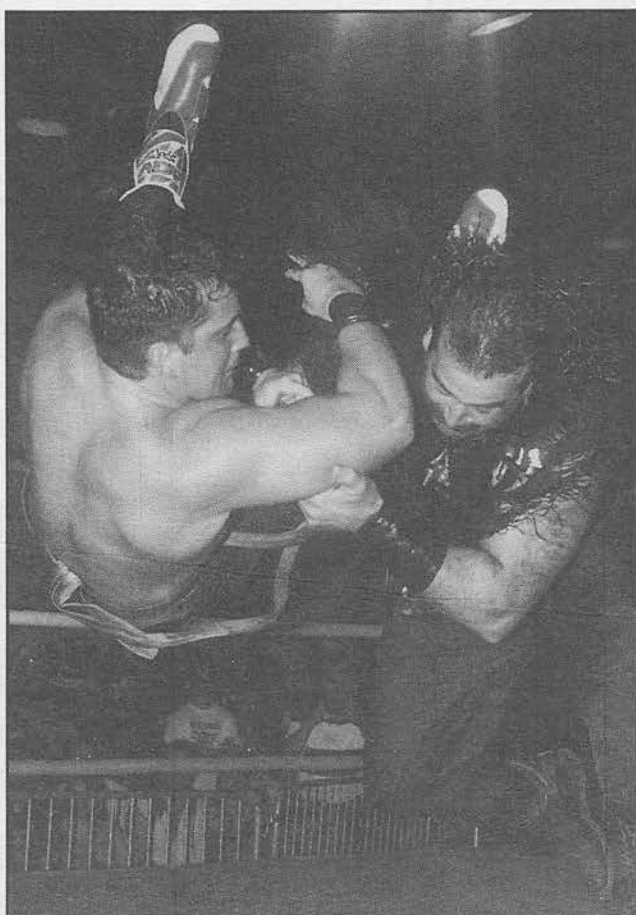
sport—does something to inspire me. My selection goes to Bret Hart, who overcame some obstacles outside the ring in maintaining excellence. But why should I be inspired by someone who can't get along with his own brother?

Comeback of the Year: As Willie Stargell once said upon receiving the honor in baseball, "I would rather have not been eligible." You can't make a comeback unless you have fallen off the face of the sport's Earth due to injury, indifference, or inability. As much as I hate to admit it, Hulk Hogan

made one of the sport's best comebacks this year. But my vote goes to Alundra Blayze, whose return to greatness gave women's wrestling a badly needed boost.

Manager of the Year: Sorry, Craig Peters, but this award should not go to "the individual who has the most successful stable of wrestlers." If that were the case, we could just retire the award to Jimmy Hart. The award should go to the manager whose influence

(Continued on page 58)



911 was voted Rookie of the Year for 1994 by *PWI* readers. Chris Bernucca agrees with the selection, citing the master of the choke-slam's potential for long-term improvement.

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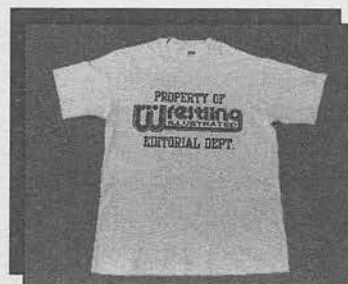
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What manager brought Hulk Hogan to the WWF in 1979?

- 1) Capt. Lou Albano
- 2) The Grand Wizard
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Arnold Skaaland

Which of the following wrestlers did Lex Luger not defeat to capture one of his four U.S. heavyweight titles?

- 1) Nikita Koloff
- 2) Dusty Rhodes
- 3) Michael Hayes
- 4) Stan Hansen

True or False: Dusty Rhodes was once managed by rulebreaking manager Gary Hart.

- 1) True
- 2) False

How did Ric Flair severely injure his back in October 1975?

- 1) Airplane crash
- 2) Ring injury
- 3) Automobile accident
- 4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$100!

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

PREDICTIONS FOR 1995 is the subject covered in many of the pages of this issue of *INSIDE WRESTLING*. On page 34, you'll read our predictions—educated guesses, if you will—for what 1995 has in store for some of wrestling's top stars.

Our predictions are based on a healthy knowledge of past performances and a decent feel for what a year of wrestling usually holds. We wouldn't be surprised if some of our predictions are right on the mark.

But everybody loves inside information. In horse racing, bettors love to know what a horse's trainer thinks about his animal's chances. Coaches are asked how they think their basketball, football, or hockey teams will fare in big games.

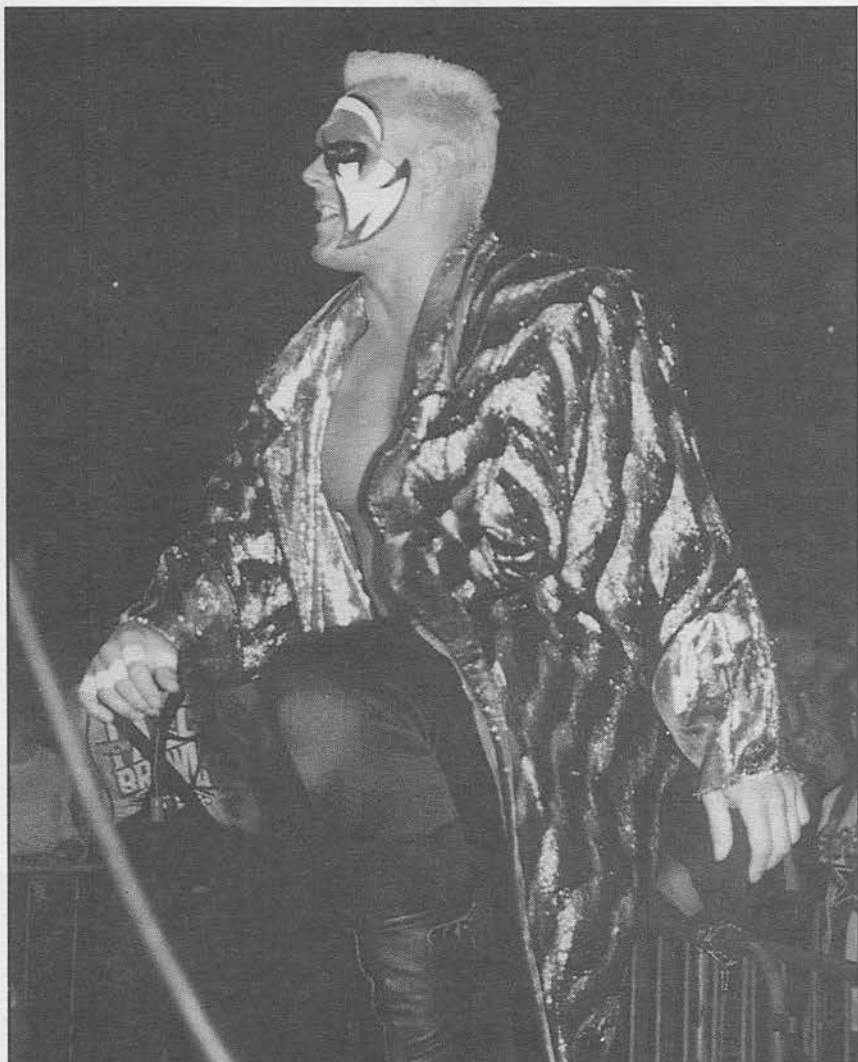
To satisfy your curiosity, I took another trip behind the dressing room door and asked various wrestlers this question: "What does 1995 hold in store for you?" Most of their answers probably won't surprise you.

"This is an important year for me," Sting said. "I'd like to regain

a major title, but I know that's going to be tough with Hulk [Hogan] on top. On the other hand, the competition in WCW is incredible right now and I wouldn't be surprised to see Hulk lose the belt before the year is out. I'm not rooting against him, but that would open up a lot of doors for a lot of people.

always optimistic, and I just know this time I'm going to beat Vader for the belt and hold on to it for a long time."

Lord Steven Regal, who dropped out of the WCW ratings and recently lost manager Sir William to the USWA, also predicted a WCW World championship for himself.



When asked what he thought 1995 had in store for him, Sting said he envisioned a very good year. He doesn't necessarily believe, however, that his friend Hulk Hogan will withstand the challenge of Big Van Vader.

"Personally, I see myself in another war with Vader. He's still going strong and I think he might have what it takes to beat Hulk. I hope not, but if he does, I'll be right there to knock him off. This is going to be a great year, folks. I'm

Over in the WWF, Bret Hart has his eyes on regaining the World title, and he thinks he can do it. He knows, however, that Diesel poses a different set of problems for him than Bob Backlund or his
(Continued on page 60)

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WINTER 1994

JANUARY 1986 WRESTLER includes a dynamic four-page full-color section celebrating the 10 greatest wrestlers of the *Wrestler* years. Featured in color: Bruno Sammartino, Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and Dusty Rhodes.

MARCH 1993 WRESTLER features a full-color 12-page section, "1992: The Year In Pictures," that details all the most important events, both in and out of the ring, of that remarkable year in the mat sport.

MARCH 1994 WRESTLER features the full-color 12-page section, "1993: The Year In Pictures," detailing all the most important happenings, both in and out of the ring, of those notable 12 months in the mat sport.

JUNE 1994 WRESTLER is an 88-page spectacular featuring 20 pages of "The stuff all fans should know"—the best wrestling quiz ever! What's your wrestling IQ? Find out with this issue! Features four full-color pinups!

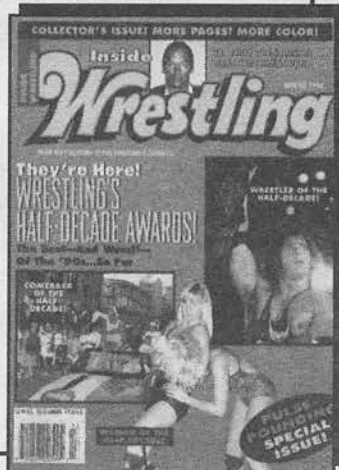
SEPTEMBER 1994 WRESTLER 88 pages of excitement—including the lively and candid "WWF Midyear Report," a review of the WWF through the first half of the year! Includes four color pinups!

WINTER 1994 WRESTLER includes the must-read bonus section, "Wrestling From A To Z"—an alphabetical array of wrestling trends and turmoil! Four full-color pinups complete this sensational 88-page package!

MARCH 1990 INSIDE WRESTLING looks back at the decade of the '80s with a dazzling eight-page full-color section and a year-by-year review of the most significant events in the sport. Must reading for all fans!

JANUARY 1993 INSIDE WRESTLING presents a stunning 12-page bonus full-color section covering the WWF's SummerSlam '92 extravaganza and Clash of the Champions XX.

JANUARY 1994 INSIDE WRESTLING offers the most extensive coverage of SummerSlam '93 and Fall Brawl anywhere: seven pages of analysis plus two pages of full-color highlights from each card!



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APRIL 1994 INSIDE WRESTLING includes the first-ever *Inside Wrestling* computer tournament! You won't believe who wins—or how! This 88-page issue's four-page color section includes an action centerfold—from the tournament?!

JULY 1994 INSIDE WRESTLING includes 21 pages of one-of-a-kind prognostications as *Inside Wrestling* looks into the sport's future and reports back to you! Coverage in this 88-page issue includes a four-page pinup section!

OCTOBER 1994 INSIDE WRESTLING presents the bold and brassy "WCW Midyear Report," a 15-page overview of the first half of 1994. Four full-color pinups fill out this 88-page special edition.

WINTER 1994 INSIDE WRESTLING They're here: Wrestling's half-decade awards! The best—and worst!—of the '90s...so far!...honored in a special section! A four-page color section highlights this 88-page must-read!

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the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

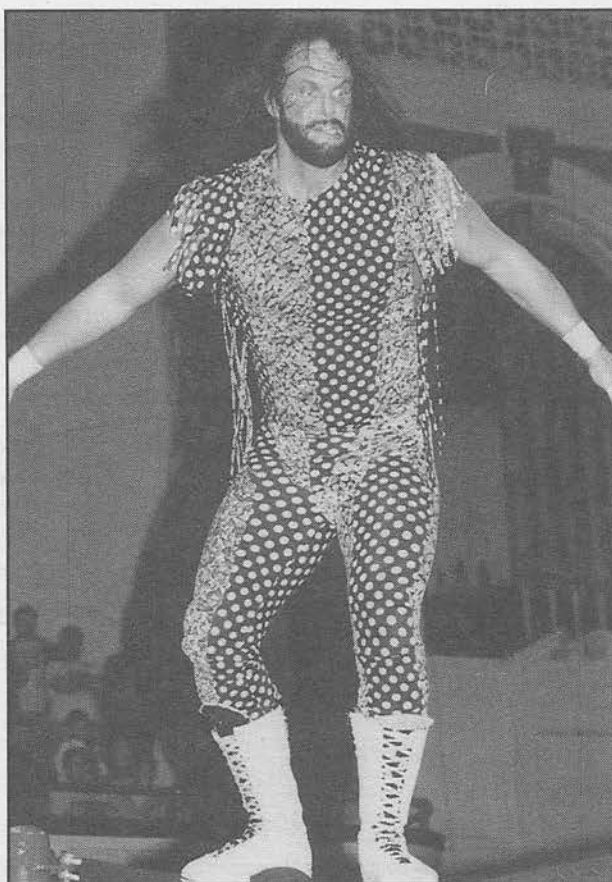
(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

NEWS ITEM: WWF fails to re-sign "Macho Man" Randy Savage. In an announcement startling because of its honesty, Vince McMahon revealed that contract negotiations with federation icon Randy Savage had reached an impasse and that the "Macho Man" had left the WWF.

For close to 10 years, Savage was the WWF's most valued all-purpose employee. Considered by many to be the class of the federation until Miss Elizabeth broke his heart, Savage could wrestle, announce, mumble, suck up, and chew gum at the same time. He was also the only two-time WWF World champion to successfully endorse beef jerky.

All indications are he will join his arch-rival and one-time good friend and tag team partner Hulk Hogan in WCW. "I have no comment at this time," Savage told reporters. But will he remain the national spokesman for beef jerky?

"It's unclear how the federation jump will affect his endorsements," said marketing analyst Steve Lux. "Buyers of beef jerky market are extremely product loyal. The marketing people may not want to take a chance on



No more Randy Savage in the WWF? That could be bad news for sellers of beef jerky everywhere. I wouldn't mind seeing him enter WCW, especially if his ex-wife, Miss Elizabeth, follows close behind.

someone they perceive as erratic." Rumor has it that WCW is close to signing Elizabeth for a series of special appearances. All the federation needs now is to

recruit Roddy Piper and to hire The Undertaker to resurrect Billy Martin and Liberace, and they could repeat some of the early WrestleManias.

NEWS ITEM: Mr. T returns. Mr. T, not yet managed by George Peppard, has returned to the professional wrestling arena as an active competitor. Analysts tracking the sport point out that the last time Mr. T surfaced, pro wrestling embarked on its most popular and profitable period in its history. Will T's return signal a wrestling renaissance? Will lightning strike twice?

"No," said WWF analyst Thomas Pilliard.

"I don't think so," said veteran announcer Jesse Ventura.

"Are you kidding?" opined Gene Okerlund.

"Where Mr. T goes brother, success is bound to follow," suggested WCW World champion Hulk Hogan.

NEWS ITEM: World coming to an end. Wrestling astrologers point out inescapable signposts. Hogan's house is rising in Mercury, while he's building another on a fault line in Northern California. Brutus Beefcake is wrestling for a major title. *Thunder In Paradise* lasted an entire season. Fox is considering remaking *Flipper* with an all-female cast. Sell your house and move to Bali. Your time in this mortal coil is shorter than you think.

NEWS ITEM: Bob Backlund still going strong. Oh, sweet irony. Like an off-shore storm, Hurricane Bobby keeps gaining momentum and won't be

(Continued on page 59)

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STING: DEADLY VENOM (pictured)

Packed with highlights of the "Stinger's" greatest moments! See his Great American Bash '91 chain match with Nikita Koloff, his SuperBrawl II WCW World title victory over Lex Luger, his amazing Beach Blast '92 brawl with Cactus Jack, grueling battles with Big Van Vader at SuperBrawl III and Starrcade '92, the Halloween Havoc '92 pole match with Jake Roberts, War Games action, and more! Approx. 30 minutes. \$12.95.

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR (pictured)

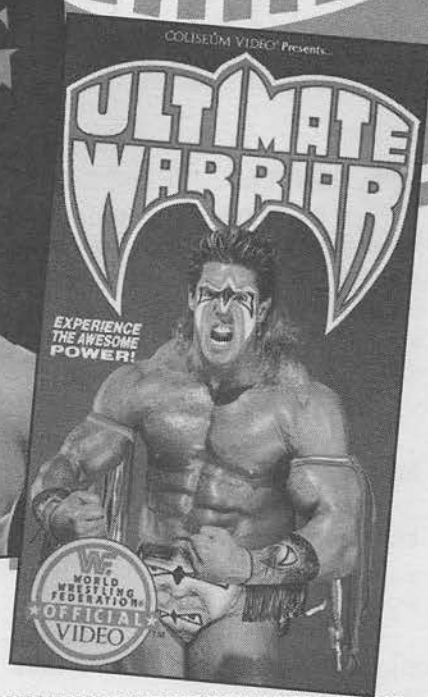
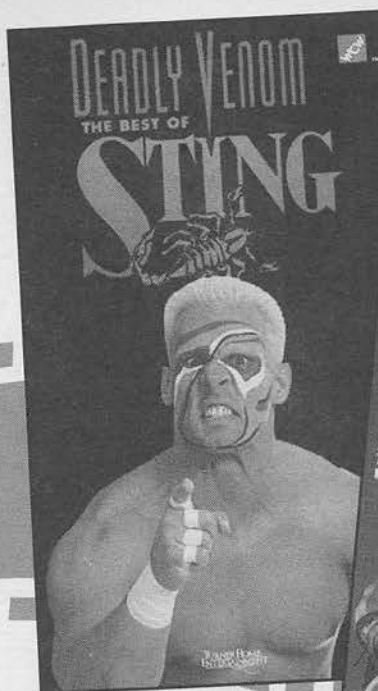
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ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

BRANDI MANKIEWICZ, OUR magazine's newest (and youngest) editor had just returned to the office following her first extended road trip when she was approached by Publisher Stu Saks.

Saks: How did it go out there?

Mankiewicz: Great. A wonderful trip. Got some powerful stuff.

Saks: The guys didn't give you any trouble?

Mankiewicz: Oh no. They were wonderful. Real gentlemen.

When Saks left, Brandi's face sagged. I knew that face; it was the face that so often stared back at me from the mirror every morning when I first started out. I approached Brandi's desk.

Hunter: How was the trip?

Mankiewicz: *(No response)*

Hunter: You wanna grab a cup of coffee and talk about it?

Mankiewicz *(gratefully)*: Yes.

As I had guessed, it turned out that while Brandi's trip was a journalistic success—she grabbed exclusives with Jim Cornette, Rick Morton, and Tammy Fytch—it was also emotionally exhausting. It is magazine policy to send new editors out on their own, often without even a photographer for backup or companionship. Everyone has done it—Saks, Peters, Ellner, Rosenbaum, Lenker—and it makes for a brutal introduction into the exclusive world of locker room politics.

According to Saks, though, it creates tough reporters.

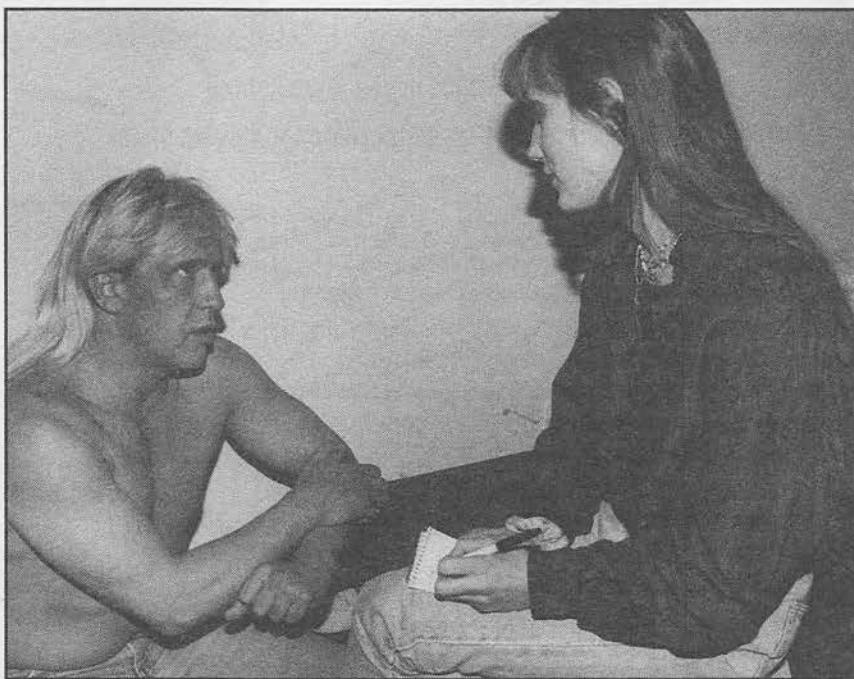
"I know it's hard on the road," he told me, "and especially hard for women. But I can't be sending children out to do these jobs. This isn't school anymore."

Indeed it's not. But Saks has no

idea how hard it is for a woman. I remember my first locker room experience. It was a nightmare. Tape recorder in hand, I was told I could enter the dressing room, even though most of the wrestlers were still taking showers. The second I appeared, there was howling and cheering. As a joke, I suppose, someone screamed "incom-

would make a difference. I've seen naked men before. I've covered other sports. But it's like they were trying to make me feel uncomfortable. You're on their turf and if you want to stay, you have to play by their rules."

Neither one of us would ever reveal names of the worst offenders, except to say it's not who you



Associate Editor Brandi Mankiewicz interviews Rick Morton of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. She found her first experiences in wrestlers' dressing rooms to be difficult, as some of the men tried to intimidate and humiliate her.

ing." One wrestler noticed the recorder shaking in my hand, and he took me aside and gave me an interview. When it was over, I fled to my car and started crying.

Now, many, many years later, Brandi listened to my story and agreed it was a pretty accurate description of what had happened to her.

"I was very intimidated in there," she said. "I didn't think it

might think it would be.

"It's not a rulebreaker thing or anything," she said. "Some guys you'd think were perfect gentlemen were unbelievably vulgar and rude. It's like they become little kids again when a woman reporter is around."

"As if they ever stopped being little kids," I said.

Even in sports with strict poli-

(Continued on page 62)

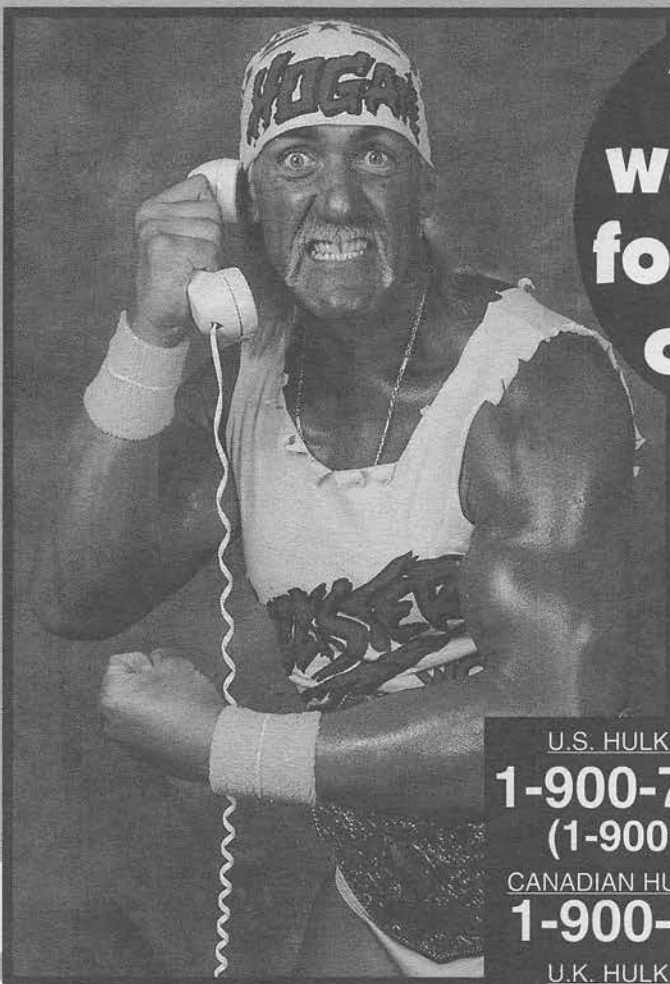
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INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE 225

THE HONKY TONK MAN

DON'T EVER TELL The Honky Tonk Man he's a lousy wrestler. Many have underestimated this Elvis Presley wannabe's ring skills

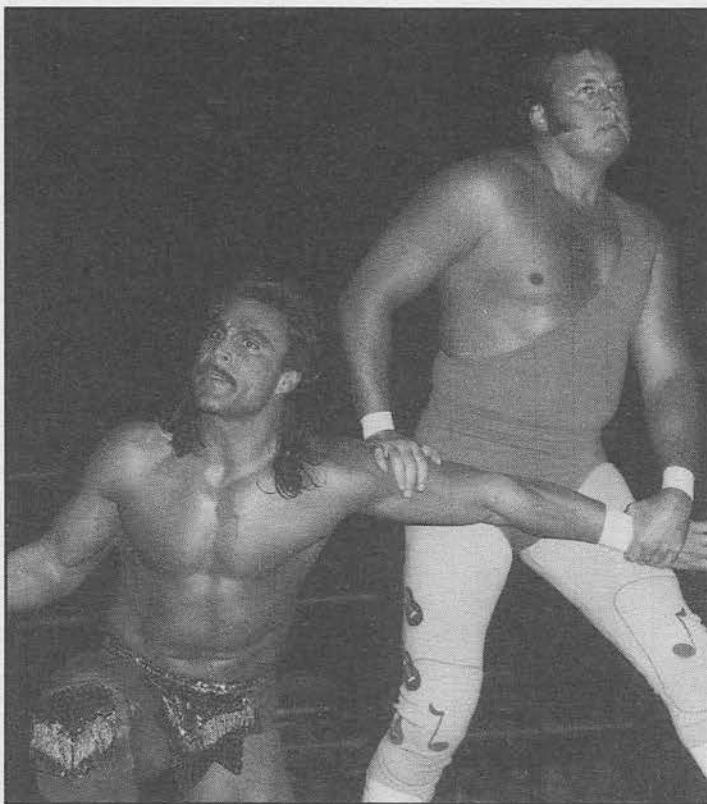
over the years and most have paid the price for doing it ... Currently involved in a feud with WCW TV champion Johnny B. Badd (*"That title will be mine right after I wrap my guitar around his head"*) ... A first cousin of Jerry Lawler, HTM has been both an ally and an enemy of "The King" over the years (*"I'm the real 'King'"*) ... Obnoxious 278-pound Memphis native began his pro career in 1979 using his real name, Wayne Farris ... Mid-Southern manager Danny Davis began teaming him with Larry Latham as The Blond Bombers (*"I was the star of the team!"*) ...

Back then, fans loved him and started calling him The Honky Tonk Man (*"Everyone loves a great entertainer"*) ... Adopted the Elvis look after moving to Canada in 1982 (*"Elvis was never as talented as The Honky Tonk Man!"*) ... Soon stopped wrestling altogether and went to work for his

girlfriend's father ... Returned to the sport about two years later and began competing in Tennessee, Florida, Oregon, and California (*"People everywhere were demanding to see me in action!"*) ... Won several titles in Canada before signing with the WWF (*"I got my big break and took advan-*

vote of confidence that he had asked for (*"They were afraid to express their love for me"*) ... As a rulebreaker, HTM took on Jimmy Hart as his manager and perfected his "shake, rattle, and roll" neckbreaker (*"Jimmy was a wise man back then"*) ... Started a feud with Jake Roberts by smashing a guitar

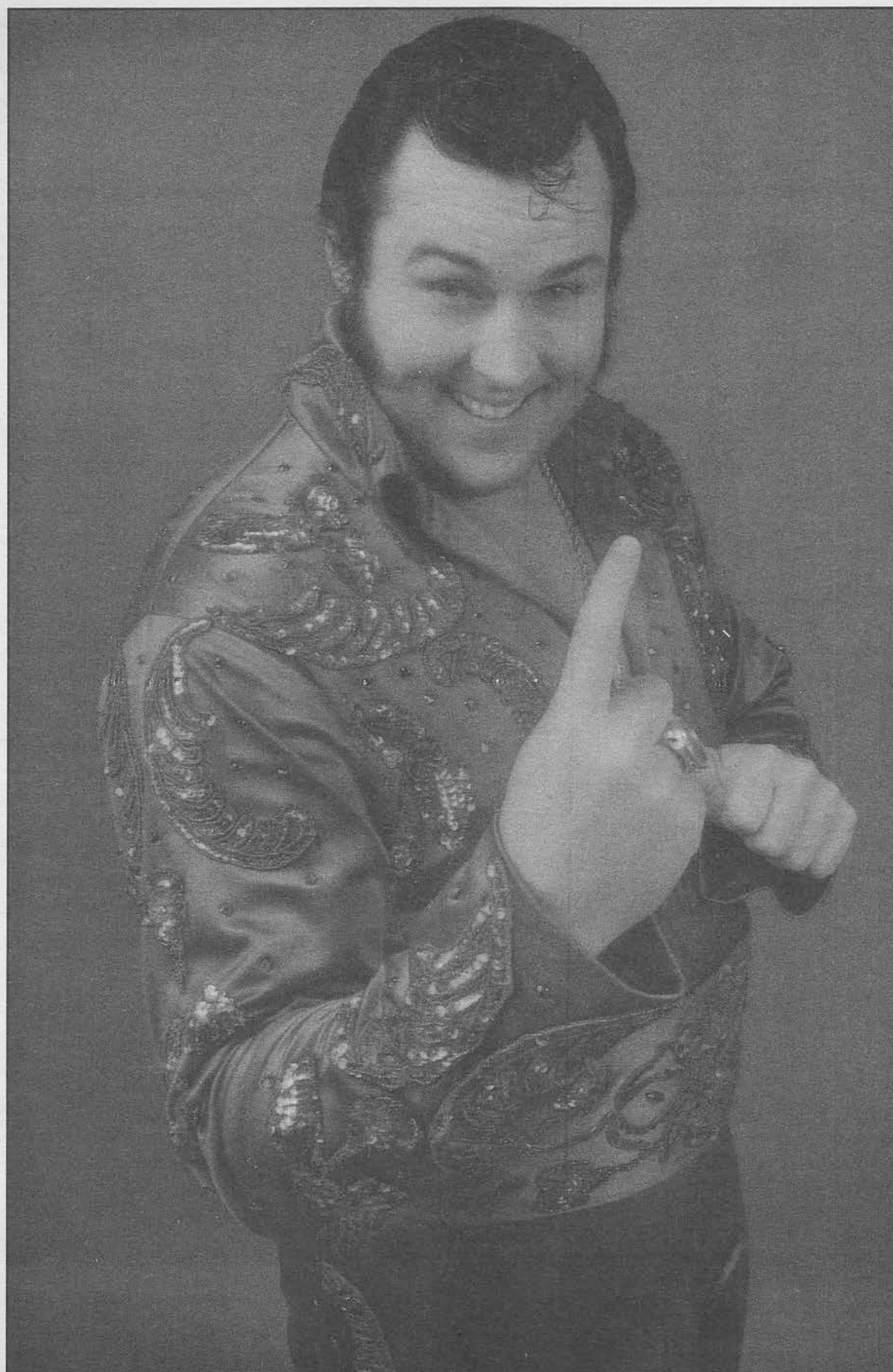
over his head and beat him in a controversial match at WrestleMania III ... Beat Rick Steamboat for the Intercontinental title on June 2, 1987, and held the belt for a record 14 months (*"Everyone agrees: I am the greatest Intercontinental champ of all-time"*) ... Lost the belt to The Ultimate Warrior at SummerSlam '88 ... Formed an alliance with Greg Valentine and they gave a brief concert at WrestleMania VI before being silenced—and defeated—by The Bushwhackers (*"Some people are too stupid to appreciate great music"*) ... Wrestled in



The Honky Tonk Man is causing problems for WCW TV champion. He has been as obnoxious as ever since entering WCW and says it won't be long before he defeats Badd for the belt.

tage of it!") ... Said he went to the WWF to help his friend Hulk Hogan after the "Hulkster" was double-crossed by Paul Orndorff ... Received shots at Intercontinental champion Randy Savage, but was unable to win the belt ... Changed his attitude after WWF fans refused to give him the

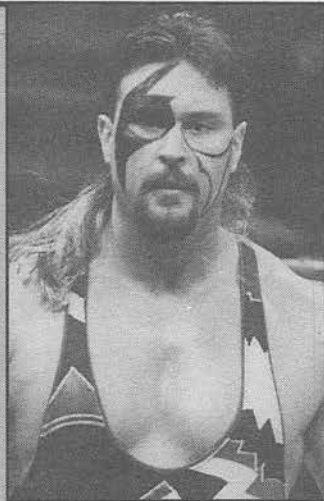
independents for several years after leaving the WWF ... Debuted in WCW in the summer of 1994. In addition to his feud with Badd, HTM has accused Hogan of ducking him (*"I don't blame him. He wouldn't stand a chance against the greatest wrestler and entertainer in the world!"*).



THE HONKY TONK MAN

Where Are They NOW

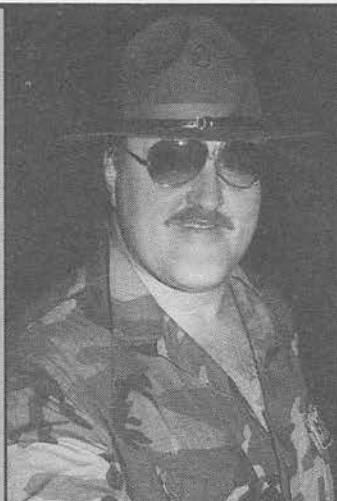
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



CRUSH

This Kona, Hawaii, native hasn't been heard from since he left the WWF this summer, but that doesn't mean he is out of wrestling. "I ran that yellow-bellied coward Randy Savage right out of the WWF," he said. "Mark my words: I'll be back." The former WWF World tag team

champion, who battled bitter feuds with Savage and Lex Luger in 1993-94, is currently relaxing in Hawaii. He says he is working on a new hold that will make him even more dangerous than ever, but he has yet to determine when he'll be back.



SGT. SLAUGHTER

A former WWF World champion, Slaughter is still active in several independent federations. He recently defeated World Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champion "Friendly" Frank Finnegan by disqualification on a card in New Jersey.

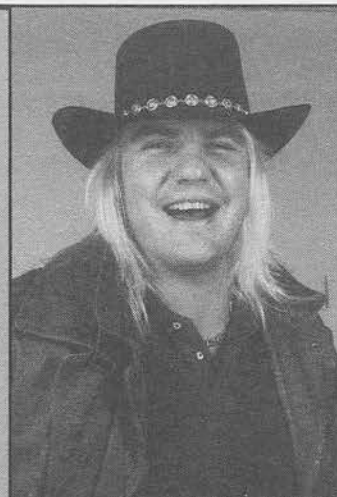
"The Sarge can still get it done," he said. "I don't get older ... I get better!" In addition to wrestling, Slaughter makes occasional appearances at autograph shows. "It's nice to get out to see all my fans," he said.



BARON VON RASCHKE

A master of the clawhold, this former AWA World tag team champion is still active in Minnesota. Famous for a long, brutal feud with Verne Gagne, Von Raschke regularly competes in Minneapolis-based Pro Wrestling America and other inde-

pendent promotions. He claims to be as mean as ever. "No one is tougher than the Baron," he said. "I have been wrestling for three decades and still all the young punks are afraid to face me and my clawhold. Cowards!"



BARRY WINDHAM

The "Lone Wolf" was expected by many to make a full-time comeback after taking a year off to rehabilitate his injured knee, but he hasn't wrestled since returning to action against Ric Flair at Slamboree last May. Managed by Col.

Robert Parker, Windham was pinned by the "Nature Boy" in that match. "I'm in training," he said from his home in Florida. "You'll know more when I'm ready to tell you." He said he is also involved in several business ventures.

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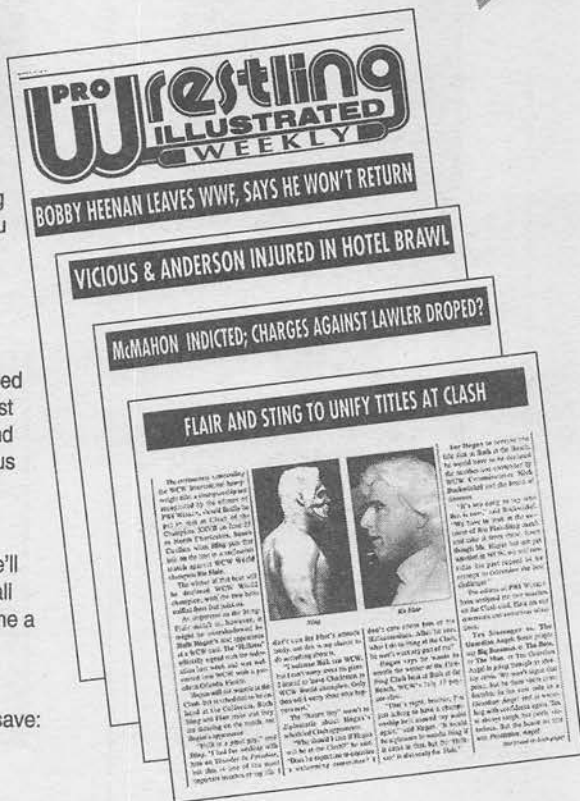
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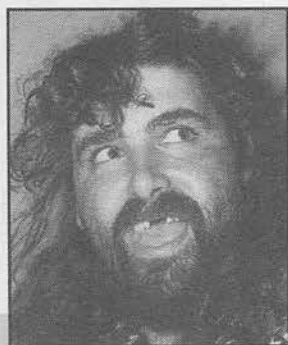
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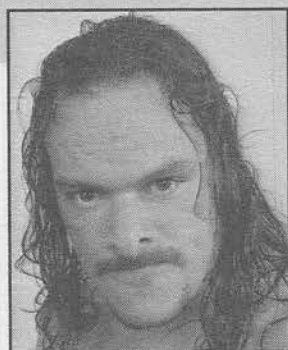
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NEWS FROM THE

LAS VEGAS, NV BY HARRY SIMON



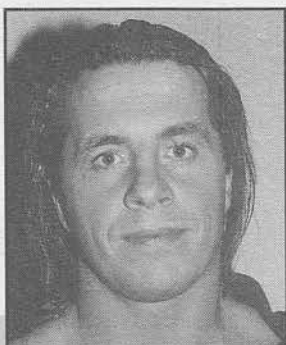
**CACTUS JACK
VS.
SABU**



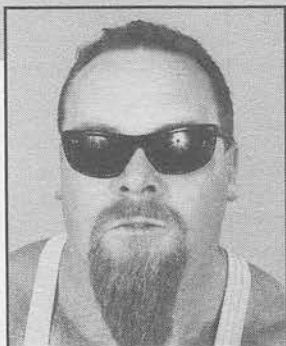
This bout stayed in the ring for about 11 seconds, as these two turned the arena into a psycho's playground in this falls-count-anywhere match. Nothing was sacred for these madmen as they pummeled each other using tables, chairs, an old man's cane, and a popcorn machine. Cactus even piledrived Sabu on a blackjack table in the adjoining casino. Once back in the ring, Sabu pinned Cactus after executing a crushing splash while holding a chair. After the bout, Sabu obliged the chanting crowd with his moonsault victory celebration, smashing a ringside table.

OTHER BOUTS: Bobby Bradley beat KGB ... The Volcano Kid beat Tim Patterson ... The Thug (managed by Madam Xenia) beat Bill Anderson ... The Karate Kid & Bobby Dean beat Little Tokyo & Killer Kruz in a midgets match ... Greg Valentine pinned Doink the Clown after Doink was distracted by The Thug.

PITTSBURGH, PA BY TRAVIS HERZING



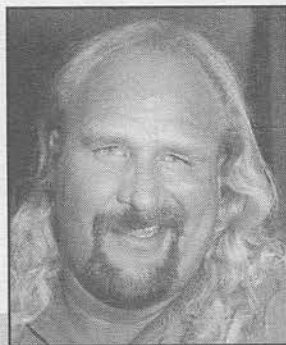
**BRET HART
VS.
JIM NEIDHART**



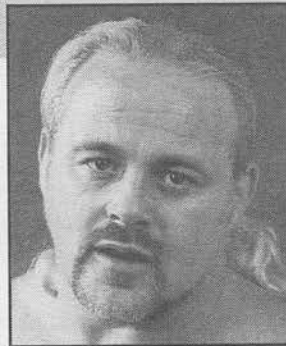
Bret Hart had some unexpected trouble in this match as he had to overcome outside interference from "Double-J" Jeff Jarrett. Former teammates, "The Hitman" and "The Anvil" battled each other fiercely, with the tide of the match being influenced by Jarrett's interference. Each had the other pinned at several points during the match. At the end of the bout, however, Jarrett entered the ring to help Neidhart double-team his foe. Neidhart was consequently disqualified, but not before Hart quickly cleared the ring area of his two foes.

OTHER BOUTS: WWF World tag team champions Diesel & Shawn Michaels beat The Headshrinkers ... WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze beat Bull Nakano ... Mabel beat Kwang the Ninja ... Jeff Jarrett beat Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly ... The Bushwhackers beat Well Dunn.

KANSAS CITY, KS DANNY MUNLEY



**DAVE SULLIVAN
VS.
KEVIN SULLIVAN**



Dave came to ringside to a chorus of cheers mixed with more than a few boos, but the boos resounded in the arena as Kevin made his way to ringside. These two brothers aren't on the best of terms, and the brutality shown reflected that fact. They started brawling as soon as the bell rang and battled both inside and outside the ring. Kevin used the hammer at the timekeeper's table to smash Dave's head. Kevin eventually pinned his brother, but Dave brought a young fan to ringside to tell the referee what happened. The official reversed his decision, disqualifying Kevin.

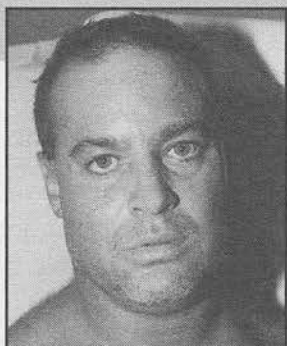
OTHER BOUTS: Sting & Dustin Rhodes beat Arn Anderson & Bunkhouse Buck in a steel cage match ... Big Van Vader beat The Guardian Angel ... U.S. champion Hacksaw Duggan beat Steve Austin ... The Honky Tonk Man wrestled WCW TV champ Johnny B. Badd to a time-limit draw ... The Nasty Boys beat Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

JIM THORPE, PA BY NICK JONES



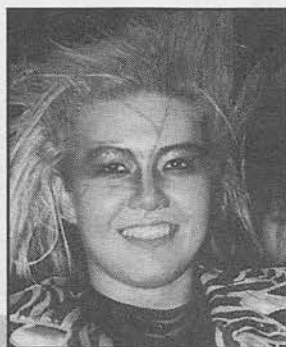
TOMMY DREAMER VS. TOMMY CAIRO



Extreme Championship Wrestling came to Flagstaff with Tommy Dreamer facing Tommy Cairo in a wild main event bout that is characteristic of ECW matches. Neither man could gain control during the match. The referee got knocked out cold after a few minutes and Sandman and Woman came to ringside. Sandman and Cairo were knocked out with a cane by Dreamer, who was ready for them. Dreamer then pinned Cairo as the referee woke up and made the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: Mikey Whipwreck defeated Steve Richards ... 911 defeated Hack Myers and Dino Sendoff. Myers turned against Sendoff after the match and pinned Sendoff in an impromptu bout ... Kevin Sullivan wrestled Tasmaniac to a no-contest ... Sabu pinned Cactus Jack ... Public Enemy and Ron Simmons & 2 Cold Scorpio wrestled to a no-contest when Simmons was attacked by Shane Douglas.

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO BY BERTRAND HEBERT



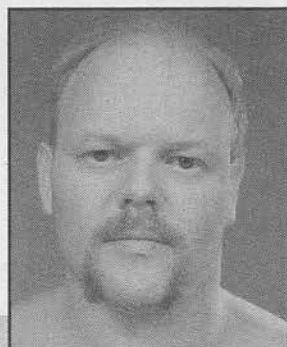
BULL NAKANO VS. ALUNDRA BLAYZE



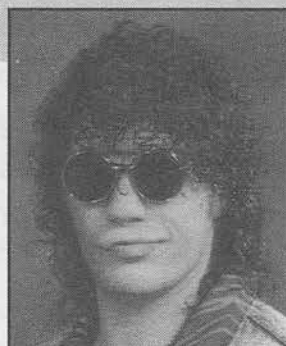
Newly crowned WWF World Women's champion Bull Nakano defended her title against former champion Blayze in this bout. Blayze was looking for revenge and a chance to regain her title, but Nakano was ready for her attack. The two battled back and forth, with neither opponent getting a clear-cut advantage. After several pinfall attempts by both wrestlers, Nakano finally gained the pin and the win to retain her title by pinning Blayze. She used the ropes for leverage while the referee made the count.

OTHER BOUTS: Aldo Montoya defeated Kwang the Ninja ... Jim Neidhart defeated Doink the Clown ... The Headshrinkers (replacing Diesel and Shawn Michaels) defeated The Executioners ... Tatanka and Lex Luger wrestled to a double-countout ... Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly defeated "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi ... Owen Hart defeated Adam Bomb.

PHILADELPHIA, PA BY BAMBI JACKSON

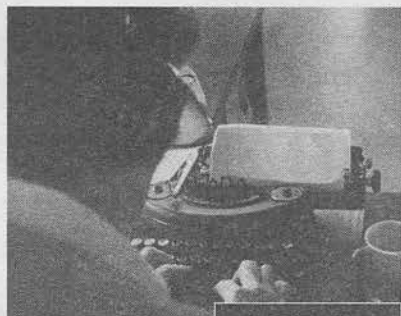


TONY ANTHONY VS. SCOTTY FLAMINGO



Flamingo took control early in this Smoky Mountain heavyweight title match, getting two near-pinfalls with rollups. Anthony retaliated with two backslides and a series of punches. Flamingo later pushed Anthony into the referee, who was temporarily knocked out. Anthony continued his assault by powerslamming Flamingo, but Flamingo had a surprise: He pulled a foreign object from his trunks, hit Anthony, and got the three-count. Fortunately for the "Dirty White Boy," Tracey Smothers told the referee what happened and the match was restarted. Anthony quickly reversed Flamingo's attempted suplex and got the win.

OTHER BOUTS: Doink the Clown beat Abbudah Singh ... Johnny Gunn beat Derrick Domino ... Tracey Smothers beat Chris Candido in a ladder match ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat SMW tag team champs The Gangstas by DQ.



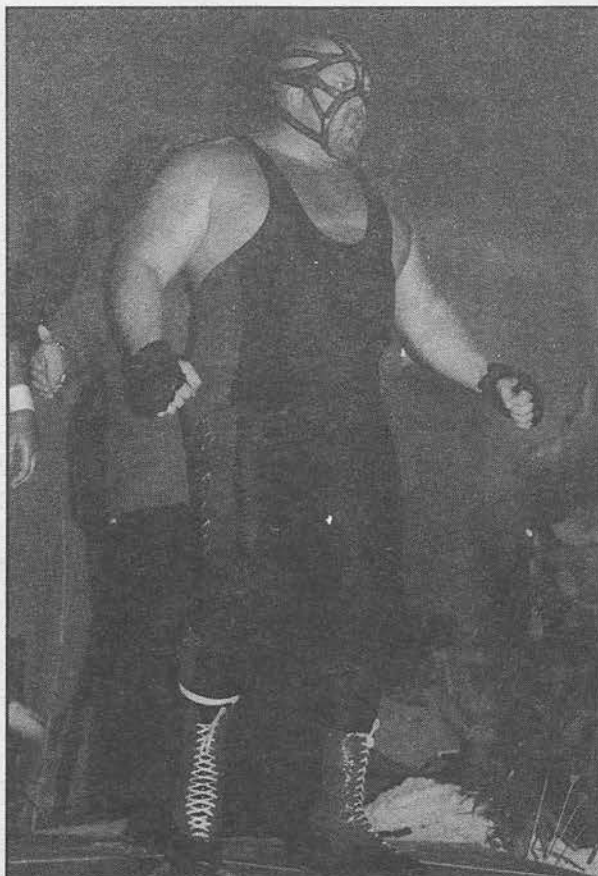
Matt Brock's **Plain** Speaking

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

You can argue about some things in this sport all you want, but there's no arguing this: Big Van Vader is the meanest man in wrestling, and nobody else comes close. Hulk Hogan is going to have his hands full defending the WCW strap against Vader and I'm not sure he's up to it. I'm not sure he's even willing to try it. Looks like Hogan has a choice: Risk his health and defend the

belt, or save his looks and give it up easily. My instincts tell me Hogan's too stubborn to just give up what he fought so hard for, but good sense should tell him that Vader's a steamroller. It's beginning to look more and more like the "Hulkster" has met his match.

JACKSONVILLE, FL

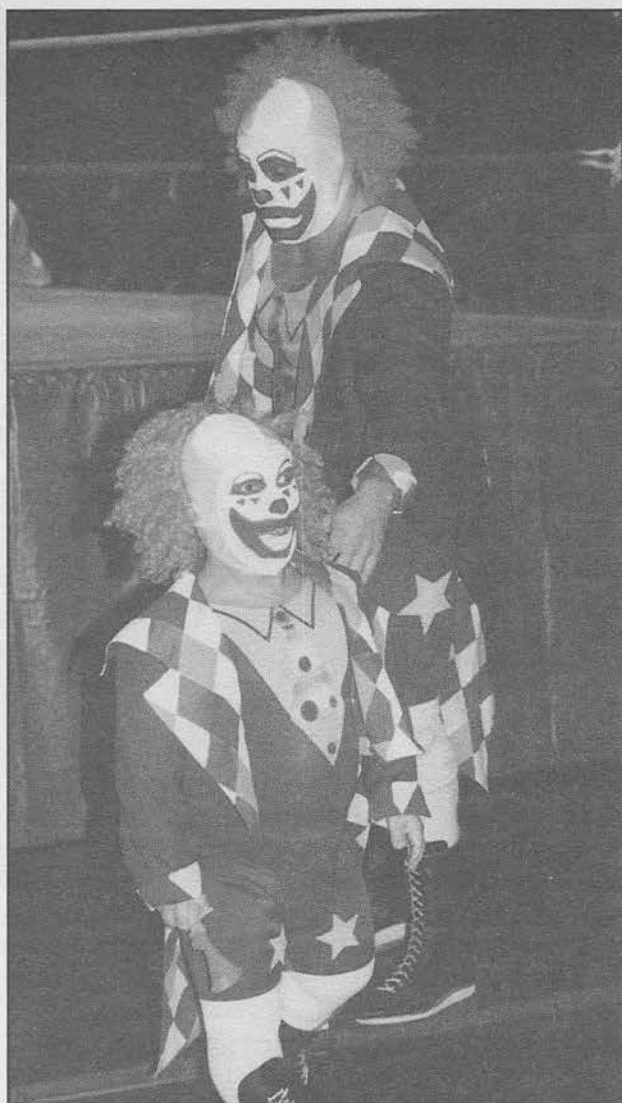


BIG VAN VADER

Back in Atlanta at Center Stage and guess who's here, too? Sheila Warner, the dame I met last month at this joint. No coincidence this time. We got together one night in New York—shared corned beef sandwiches and cream soda at The Carnegie Deli—and have spoken a few times since. I told her I'd be in Atlanta in November and she decided to come down and visit some family and friends. Call it good timing, but I'm still not sure women and wrestling mix. I'm trying to take notes on the matches, she's telling me about her sisters and their husbands. I seem to remember her telling me she was a big wrestling fan, but she isn't watching too much of the matches tonight. She's watching me. Afterward, I go back to the locker rooms for some quotes from

Dustin Rhodes and Arn Anderson, then head out with Ms. Warner for a nightcap. Make that Miss Warner. "I don't like Ms.," she said, batting her eyelashes. "It's not feminine enough. Call me Miss. Or Sheila, honey." I'm beginning to like this broad.

A few things were proven here tonight. One: Bob Backlund is still a pretty good wrestler. Two: Shawn Michaels and Diesel have been having problems for a long time, but neither man deserves the majority of the blame. There's plenty to go around. Three: Clowns stick together. Six midgets, one Lawler was the lowlight of a pretty poor Survivor Series



DOINK & DINK

card, and it's hard to believe "The King" has sunk so low that he has to wrestle in an eight-man match with six midgets. Lawler oughta take a good look at himself in the mirror. Backlund was the story, however, once you get past Owen Hart and the way he deceived his parents. If you ask me, Bret was going to lose the match anyway. No way he escapes that chicken wing. Backlund looked like a real champion today, and he almost acted like one afterward. Almost. Backlund's locked in to the WWF circus mode and it looks like we'll never get back the old

SAN ANTONIO, TX

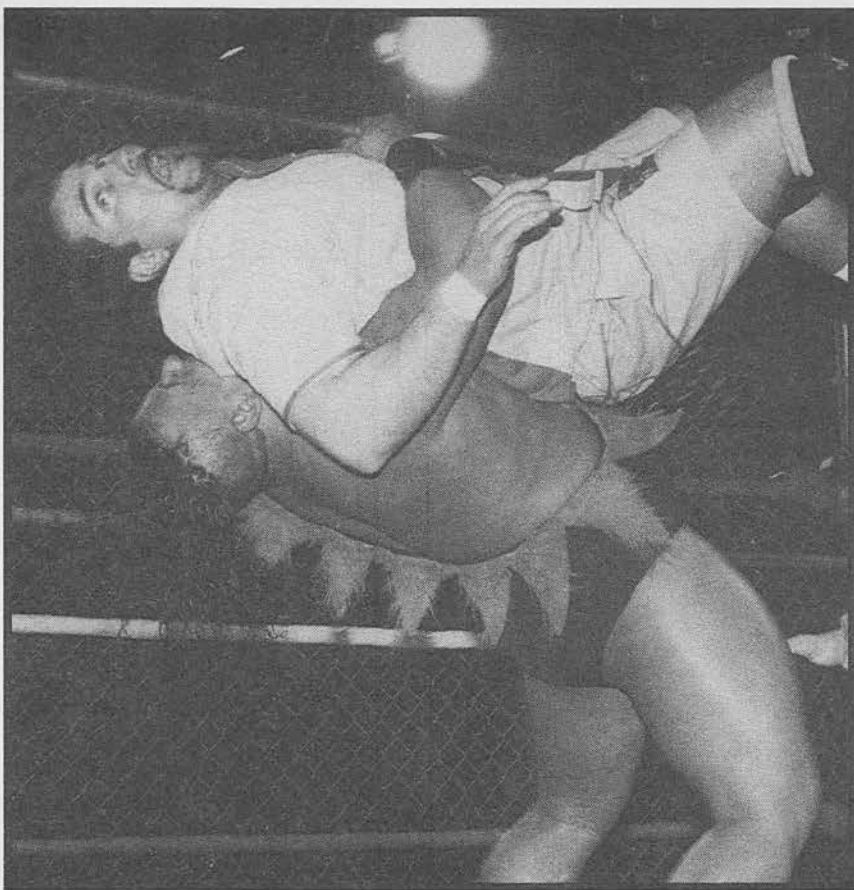
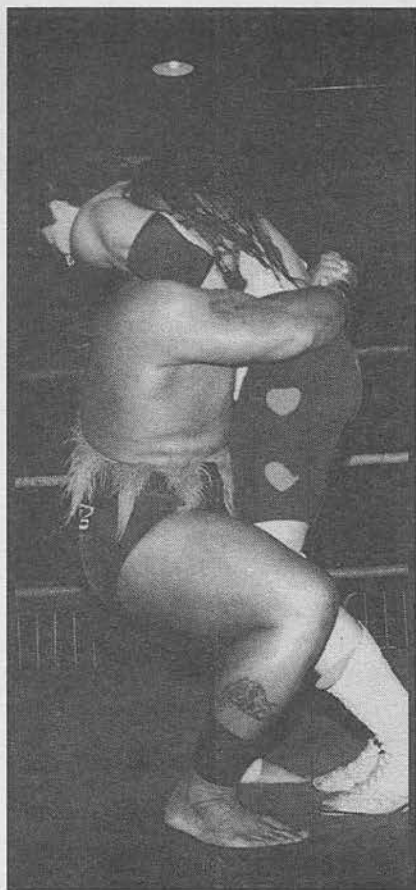
Backlund who worked hard, wrestled honestly, and respected the sport. Now he's trying to make believe he's the second coming of Hulk Hogan. Notice the way he posed in the ring afterward? The only difference is about 100 pounds of muscle and a world of wrestling ability. You guess who has the edge in each department. By the way, there was a fourth thing proven here tonight: The WWF has some catching up to do. On a major pay-per-view event, it's only real superstars were Bret Hart, Lawler, and Lex Luger. I don't place anyone else in that superstar pantheon. It'll be interesting to see what WCW

comes up with next.

It's happening already. Flew back to New York after Survivor Series and decided to attend the WWF card at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night. Got a call from the office Friday afternoon—don't these people ever take a holiday?—and was a bit alarmed when I heard my niece's voice at the other end of the line. "Hello, Uncle Matt. Happy Thanksgiving," said Brandi Mankiewicz, the new associate editor at INSIDE WRESTLING and my worst recurring nightmare. "What are you doing in New York?" As if she had a right to know. I knew right away she wasn't calling just to say hello, so I

stuck to business. "Madison Square Garden, tomorrow night," I growled into the receiver. "What's it to you?" "Just checking up," she answered. "And if you want to know what it is to me, I don't know what you're planning on doing at the Garden tomorrow." I barked something into the phone about doing my job and then slammed down the receiver. A few seconds later, the phone rang again. "That wasn't very nice, Uncle Matt," she said. "We're working together. Don't treat me like I'm your little niece." Now this was getting out of hand. My little niece is exactly what she is and all she'll ever be, and here she was questioning my news judgment. "For your information," I said, "tomorrow night is Backlund's first title defense against Diesel. That's the big deal." I hung up the phone again. She called back again. "By the way, Uncle Matt, I don't appreciate you calling me the 'devil's gift to journalism.'" She was referring to my last column. "Fine, Brandi, and I don't appreciate you telling me where to go." Turned out that Brandi's news judgment was as bad as I thought. Three days after winning the World title at Survivor Series, Backlund went out and lost it to Diesel, and he was crushed. Took eight seconds. This came as a big shock to a lot of people. Backlund's 11 years older than he was the last time he held the title, but he looked pretty darn good in that match against Bret Hart. Damn good, in fact, and now here he goes losing the belt to a guy like Diesel, who's real strong and real tough, but never struck me as much of a wrestler. Backlund now definitely belongs with Yokozuna and Andre the Giant in third place on the all-time list of shortest WWF World title reigns. Who woulda thunk it? Certainly not Brandi Mankiewicz. □

NEW YORK, NY



Even inside a steel cage, Tasmaniac would rather use a belly-to-back suplex than rake his opponent's face across the steel mesh. The victim here is Public Enemy's Rocco Rock.



Tasmaniac demonstrates his famous belly-to-belly suplex during a workout session. He locks his arms around the victim's back, lifts him high into the air, and drives his back into the mat.

Tasmaniac has dazzled opponent after opponent with his unbelievably powerful and quick suplexes. But the key to understanding this maniac lies thousands of miles away from any ECW wrestling ring

TASMANIA

WRESTLING'S MANIACAL

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

By Ed Emelett

FIND AUSTRALIA ON a map and you will probably also notice the small island country of Tasmania. Located just southwest of Australia, Tasmania has many of the same characteristics as large nations. Most residents of the island own their own homes, attend established colleges and universities, and drive expensive cars. But Tasmania has a darker side—a side that no one really acknowledges. It is here where this story begins.

Located on the northwestern tip of Tasmania is a small remote area aptly named Hunter Island. The moniker tells you all you need to know about it. The animals there, such as the near-extinct Tasmanian devil and the wallaby, battle each other in a struggle to stay alive. The people do the same. They battle each other for food. For water. For survival.

Hunter Island, with its deep, dark tropical landforms, is completely different than the rest of Tasmania. Only the strongest survive on Hunter Island. Extreme Championship Wrestling's Tasmaniac knows all about survival.

Tasmaniac remains one of wrestling's most curious mysteries. How did he find his way to a wrestling ring in Philadelphia, thousands of miles away from

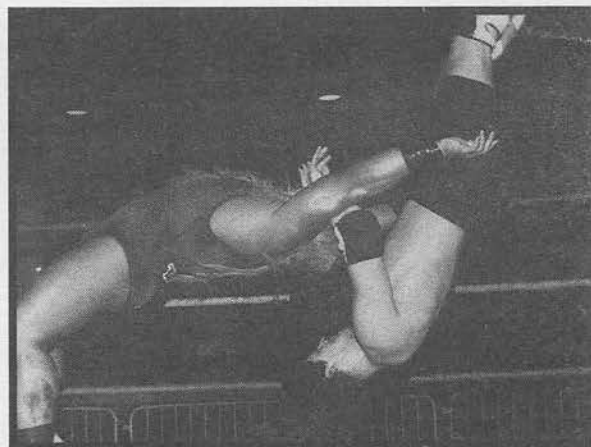
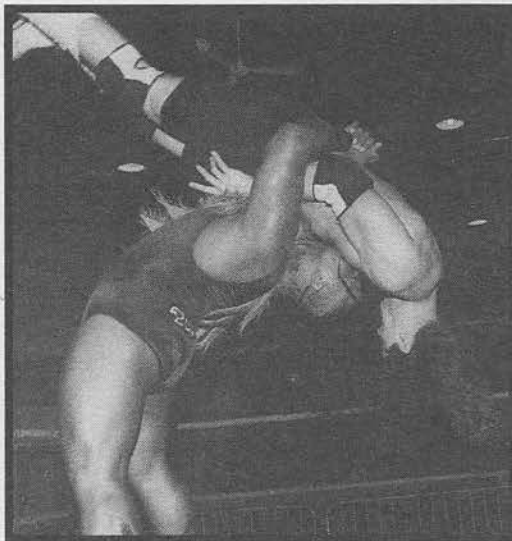
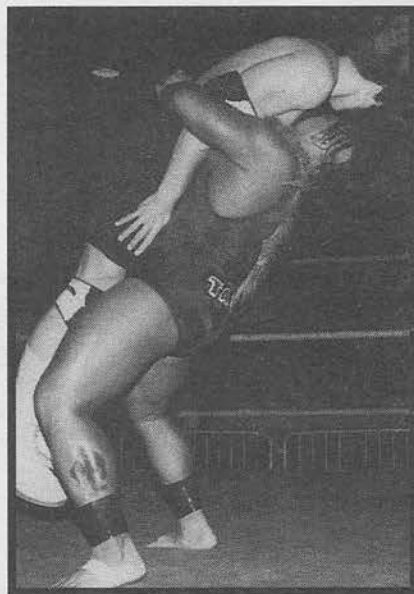
hometown? Tas is nothing but a brawler. If he could speak English, he would probably admit that he has absolutely no scientific skills whatsoever. Except for one move: the suplex.

A Tasmaniac suplex is a thing of beauty. And beauty is a strange word to use when you're describing a creature who, save for a few grunts and groans, can barely speak, has no friends, and beats up whatever and whomever he can get his hands on. Where did his vast array of suplexes come from?

Researcher/explorer/wrestling fan Dr. Milos Yentori, who specializes in Australian culture, offered a theory.

"The Hunter Island Tasmaniacs are a very strange sort of people," he said. "They're like nothing I've ever seen before. When I did my research down there, I was careful to try to blend in as best I could, to try to catch the natives in their normal state of behavior. What I saw astonished me.

"These people would actually beat each other to death for a measly piece of food. The natives would stop at nothing to claim their 'prize.' In one fierce



TASMANIAC

MASTER OF THE SUPLEX

What makes Tasmaniac's belly-to-belly suplex so amazing is that, despite his small stature, he gets a lot of momentum behind it and gets the opponent so high in the air.

competition I witnessed from afar, two men of about equal size were battling over a dead bird. One man gained an advantage after smashing his rival in the head with a rock. He went behind him, wrapped his arms around his

"The more and more I watched, the more different variations of the suplex I saw. Belly-to-back. Belly-to-belly. Side suplexes. Snap suplexes. Exactly what you see from Tasmaniac on every ECW card. There was never anything near another wrestling move, just kicks and punches.

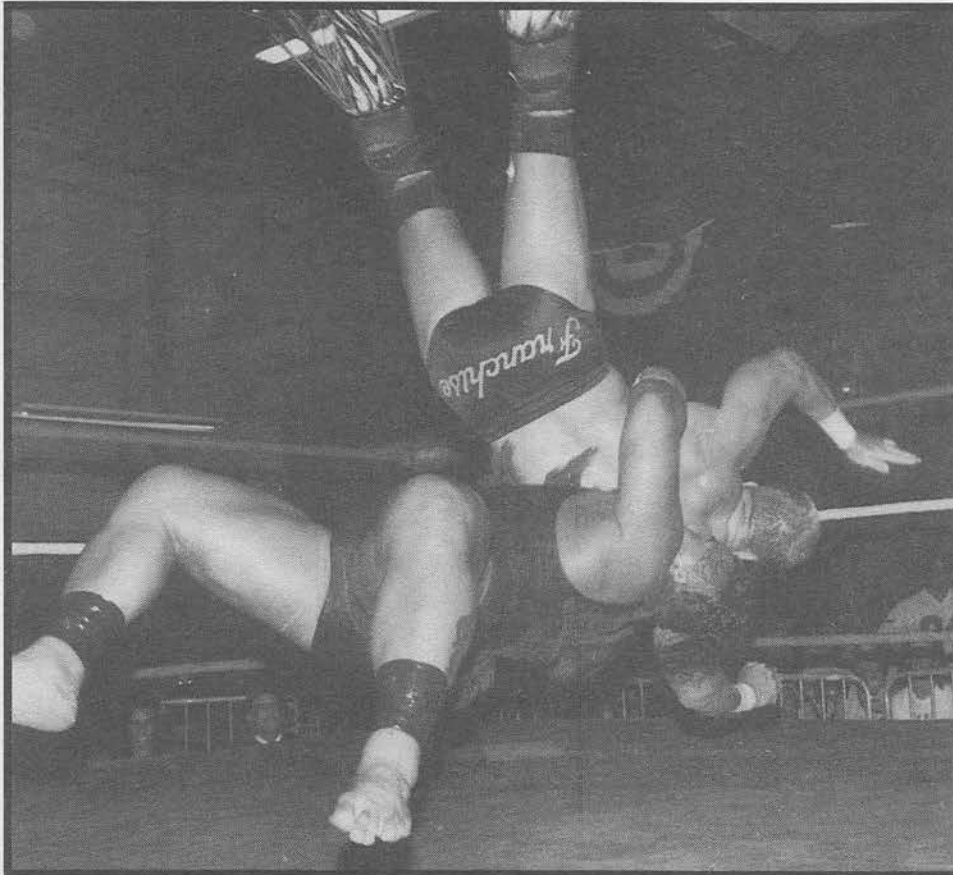
"But these wildmen would use the suplex, knowing it would either knock the wind out of their rival, break their back or neck, or just plain kill them. They knew that it was an effective way to try to incapacitate their rival so they could get their food. Honestly, I have witnessed people come close to dying after getting hit with a suplex from one of these maniacs.

"After my research, I returned to the States. I noticed Tasmaniac wrestling on TV and almost fell out of my chair. The surroundings were different, but everything else was just the same. Tasmaniac buried his opponent with a

wide array of suplexes, the same moves I witnessed during my research. Tas is the typical Hunter Island Tasmaniac—short, built like a tank, mean and nasty."

Tasmaniac's suplexes in ECW haven't directly resulted in the capture of food, but they do bring the championships—and the money—that provide him with everything he needs to live. He defeated the heralded Sabu, the man with whom he recently formed a tag team, for the TV title in May, and also held the ECW tag team championship for several months with Kevin Sullivan.

He seems to love the confines



Even ECW heavyweight champion Shane Douglas has victimized by a few Tasmaniac suplexes. According to one researcher, some natives of Tasmania use the suplex as a method of survival.

waist, locked his hands together, and threw him backward over the top of his head.

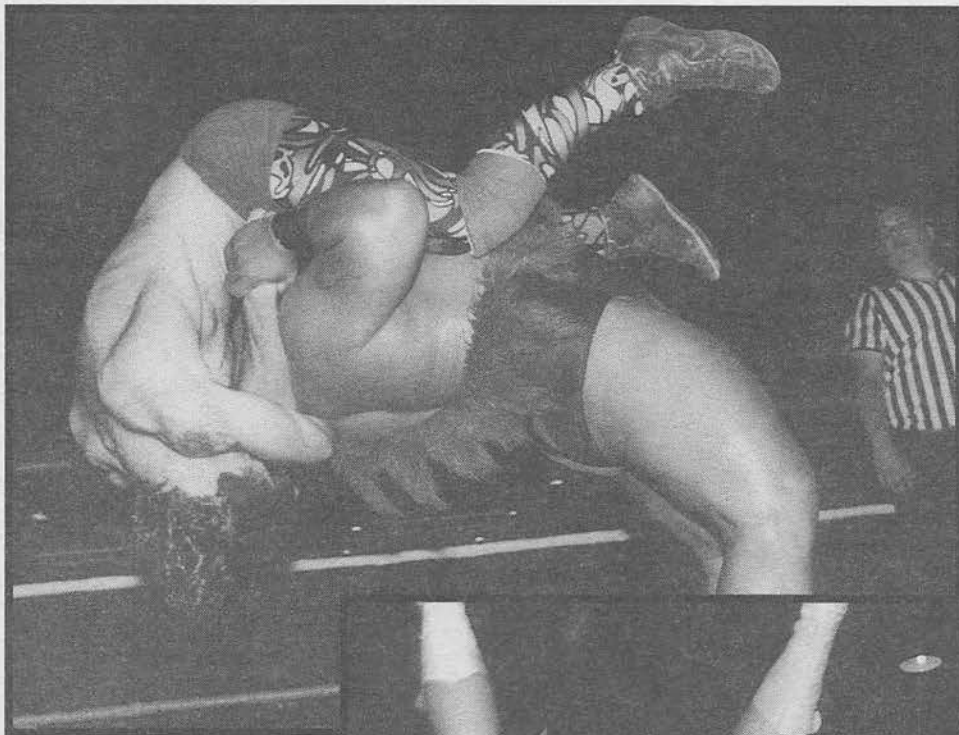
"I couldn't believe I witnessed a waistlock suplex from a man who couldn't have known what wrestling was, let alone what a real, typical, mainstream lifestyle is like! Anyway, the victim of this suplex landed with his neck hitting a nearby log, breaking the log—and probably his neck—instantly. With the other person defeated, the man who administered the suplex walked over to the food, picked it up, and walked away as if nothing ever happened. Amazing. Absolutely astounding!"

of wrestling in Philadelphia, where he can charge the ring and do what he does best: beat people up.

"I don't know much about the guy or his background," said Paul E. Dangerously. "I'm not sure anyone does. But I do know that anyone who messes with Tasmaniac is taking his life into his hands.

the ring? Is he thinking of his homeland? Is he trying to break his opponent's neck? Is he searching for food?

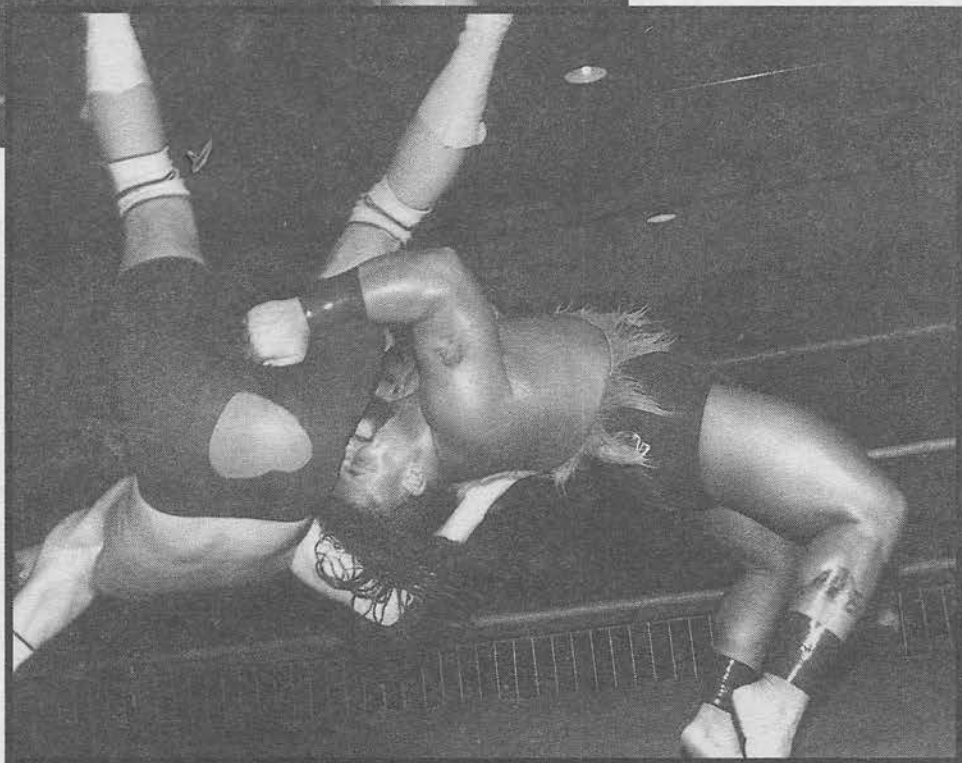
So many questions, so few answers. Whatever the case, Tasmaniac is one of ECW's most ferocious competitors and he is—without a doubt—the master of the suplex. □



Tasmaniac is taken lightly by some opponents because he isn't very tall. But what he lacks in stature, he makes up for in strength and ferocity. He has incredibly powerful legs that help him drive his victims into the mat with his various suplexes.

He's a savage. He doesn't have any rational thoughts. He's crazy. He just acts on instinct all the time. He's a perfect fit for Extreme Championship Wrestling."

Dr. Yentori's research answers many questions people had about this unique individual. Conversely, more questions arise from those answers. Tas' inability (or unwillingness) to talk is a major barrier. There is so much that could be learned from this crazed animal. What goes through his mind when he enters





Not Macho Enough?

WHY RAZOR RAMON IS AFRAID OF THE WORLD TITLE

All signs point toward Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon challenging for the WWF World title. So why doesn't he? Maybe the "Bad Guy" isn't so bad after all

By Chris Bernucca

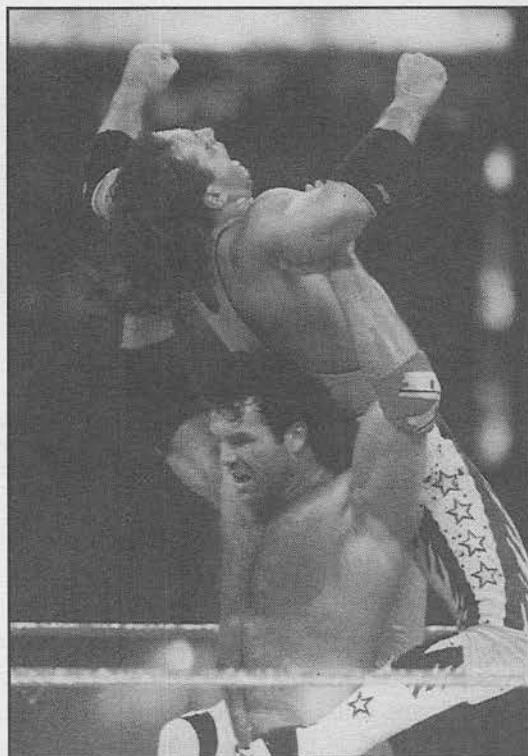
THE IDIOSYNCRASIES OF Razor Ramon are easy to spot. There is the sneer, complete with the toothpick jammed between his teeth. There is also the jewelry, dangling from his massive neck. And there is the WWF Intercontinental championship belt, wrapped firmly around his waist. Upon first glance, this does not look like a man who is

afraid of anything.

But a first glance does not always reveal the whole picture. The image of machismo and the respect of a title hide the fact that Razor Ramon may very well be afraid of the federation's biggest prize: the World title.

Afraid? What could Ramon possibly be afraid of? At 6'8" and 287 pounds, he cannot be physically intimidated. With a long winning streak as a champion, he cannot be mentally discouraged. For the last three months, he has been the most dominant grappler in the WWF.

As Intercontinental champion, Ramon has been very impressive. Since winning the title for



Razor Ramon had then-WWF World champ Bret Hart set up for the "Razor's Edge" at the 1993 Royal Rumble, but could never put "The Hitman" away. He ended up losing by submission and hasn't gone after the World title since.

the second time, he has repeatedly turned back the challenges of Diesel, Owen Hart, and Jeff Jarrett—three of the WWF's best. Diesel has won both the Intercontinental and WWF World tag team titles in the last year. Hart won the King of the Ring tournament and was the top contender to the World title for months on

banned because the impact it has on its victims' back and neck is so devastating.

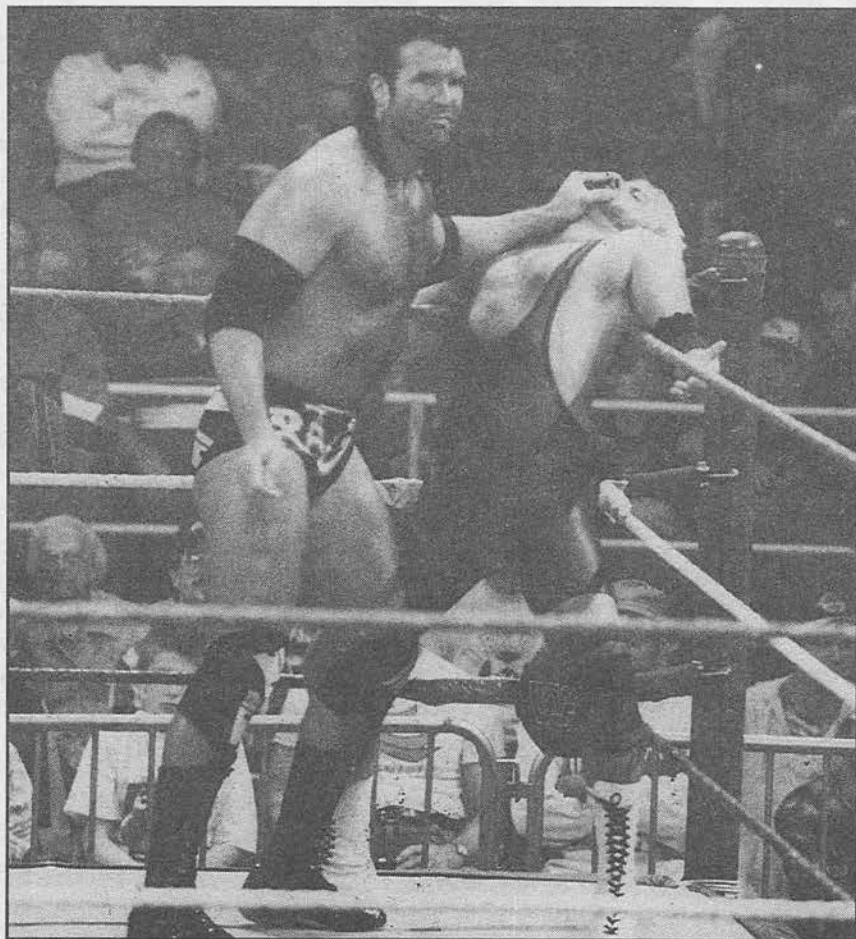
The string of successful I-C title defenses has Ramon's growing legion of fans clamoring for him to go after the World title. And that seems to be the natural progression, as it was for men like The Ultimate Warrior, Randy Savage,

up a good thing?"

Complacency has never won a championship. Ramon knows that better than anybody. After an embarrassing loss by submission to Bret Hart at the 1993 Royal Rumble destroyed his tough-guy image as a rulebreaker, Ramon rededicated himself to the sport and bounced back with a surprisingly easy win over Bob Backlund at WrestleMania IX. That was the first of several turning points in his career.

"The win over Backlund was big," said former WWF Intercontinental champion Tito Santana. "But the loss to The Kid later that year humbled him and forced him to look at his long-term future. Ramon was able to become a fan favorite without changing his image too much, and that gave him some confidence. If Ramon doesn't have confidence, he goes nowhere."

Santana pointed out several other confidence-builders in Ramon's career, including the



Razor still has the same swagger he had as a rulebreaker, even when he faces preliminary competitors like J.S. Storm. Even though he can be very arrogant, the Intercontinental champion might actually be afraid of going after the World title.

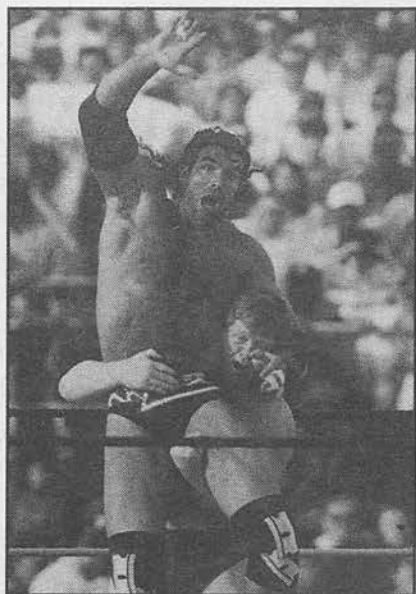
end. And Jarrett won every belt there was to win in the USWA.

Ramon has held on to the belt by perfecting his "Razor's Edge," a variation of the power bomb that has become one of the most awesome finishers in the federation. It has made him one of the most dangerous wrestlers in the sport. There is even talk among WWF officials that the move could be

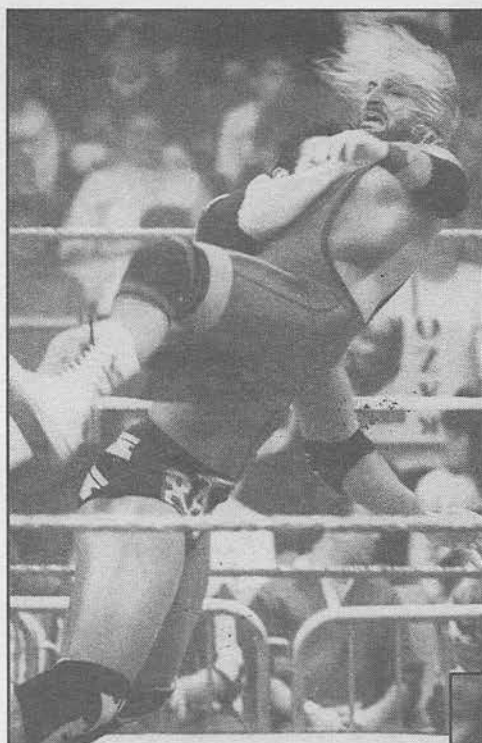
and Bret Hart before him. But Ramon is in no hurry to pursue the grand prize.

Why?

"He's afraid of failure," said Curt Hennig, who held the AWA World tag team title with him for four months in 1986. "He's on a roll right now, and he's content with that. He's got a championship belt and the fans love him. Why mess



Whatever fears Ramon may have concerning making a run at the World title might go away if Bob Backlund becomes champion. He easily—and cleanly—defeated the technical wizard at WrestleMania IX in 1993.



The "Bad Guy" is powerful enough to lift Storm without much of an effort (above), then drive him to the mat with a choke-slam (right). Now appears to be the perfect time for him to pursue the World belt, but he seems content to defend the I-C belt.

spectacular victory over Shawn Michaels in the classic WrestleMania X ladder match. But he went on to explain how confidence can be a double-edged sword.

"Ramon is at the height of his career right now, and he has confidence to thank for that," Santana said. "But the other side of that is the fear of knowing that this could be the best that it gets. If he were to take the next step and fail, it may knock him back so far that he never reaches that height again. I don't know if he is afraid of wrestling for the World title. Only Ramon knows that. But he seems afraid of failure."

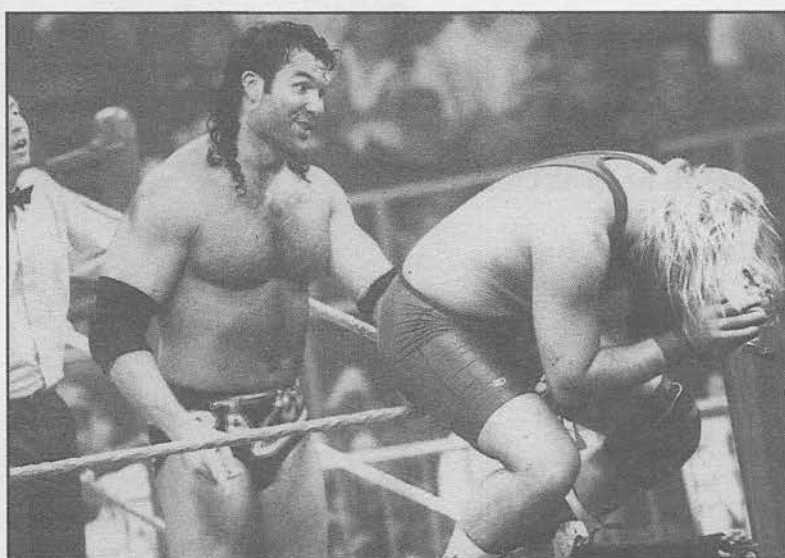
Perhaps Ramon is more afraid of his potential opponent. At press time, Bret Hart was the champion and Ramon's 1993 loss to "The Hitman" still haunts him. Another loss to Hart with the World title at stake would have cemented a rep-

utation for Ramon as a wrestler who can't win the big one. That would have been another huge blow to his confidence.

At press time, Hart was scheduled to face Backlund at Survivor Series and it is possible that Ramon is waiting for the outcome of that match before making his move. If Backlund upsets Hart, we could finally see Ramon focus his attention on the World title. As Santana pointed out, it was the upset of Backlund that rejuvenated Ramon. Knowing that he has already

beaten Backlund could prod Ramon into pursuing the World title.

For now, though, Ramon is content with his current standing as Intercontinental champion. Although the timing seems perfect for him to take another step toward ultimate excellence, he will continue to defend the I-C belt against the Jeff Jarretts and Owen Harts of the world. And as long as he does that, he will still be the "Bad Guy." But until he overcomes his fear of failure and develops enough confidence to challenge for the World title, he will never be the "Big Guy." □



Notice how relaxed and carefree Ramon appears as he gets set to finish off Storm. Perhaps he feels that if he starts to focus on the World title, he'll lose his grip on the I-C belt and never get it—or the respect of his fans—back.

WRESTLING'S TOP STARS WHAT 1995 HAS IN STORE FOR THEM

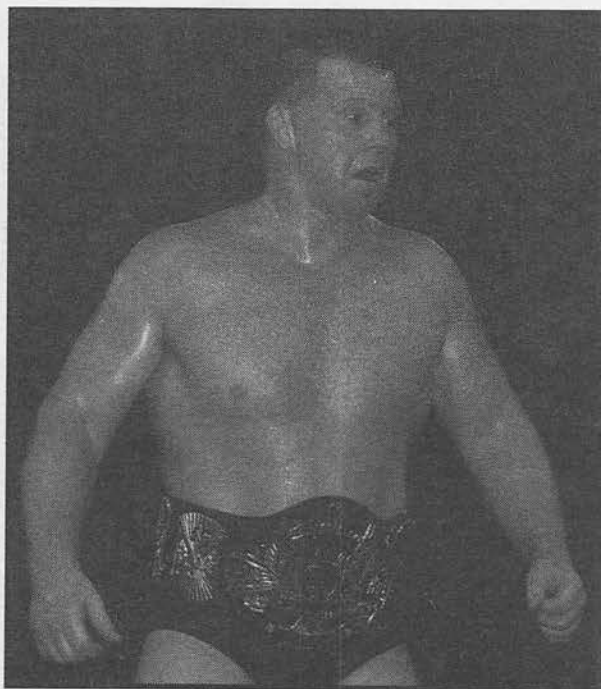
There is no sport more unpredictable than professional wrestling. As 1994 began, who would have thought Bob Backlund would regain the WWF World title and Hulk Hogan would reign atop WCW? What does 1995 have in store for your favorites? Read on ...

WWF

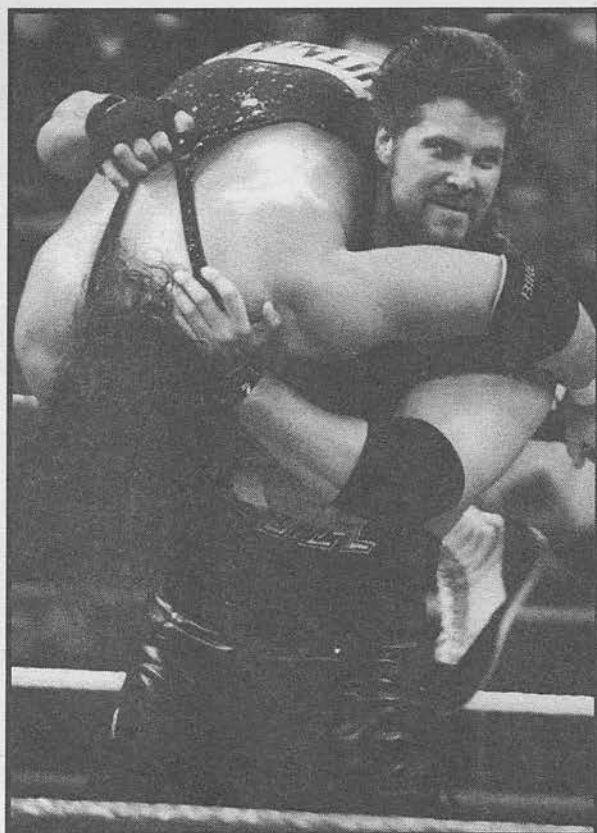
BOB BACKLUND

Crushed by a shocking loss to Diesel just three days after he won the WWF World title, Backlund will drop into a deep funk from which he'll never fully recover. He'll fail to regain the belt from Diesel in a series of rematches. Shunned by the fans, Backlund

will have nowhere to turn. He'll lose a series of grudge matches to Bret Hart and ultimately won't find his name on the list of SummerSlam '95 wrestlers. Backlund will change his attitude and stop insisting that the fans have turned against him, but people still won't side with him. Finally, with no place to turn, Backlund will return to the only place where he is appreciated: Japan.



Backlund: Sayonara



Diesel: Champion dethroned

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Winning the WWF World title from Bret Hart at the Survivor Series

1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing the WWF World title to Diesel three days later

DIESEL

The new WWF World champion will face numerous challenges in 1995. One of them will be from Lex Luger, who will win the Royal Rumble and earn a shot against Diesel in a fan favorite vs. fan favorite match at WrestleMania XI. Before that, Diesel will hold off both Bob Backlund and Shawn Michaels in title defenses. But he won't be able to deal with Luger at WrestleMania XI, and he will lose the belt. He'll return his attention to Michaels after WrestleMania, but won't succeed in an attempt to win the Intercontinental title for a second time. 1995 will be a solid year for Diesel; he will always

near the top of the WWF rankings.

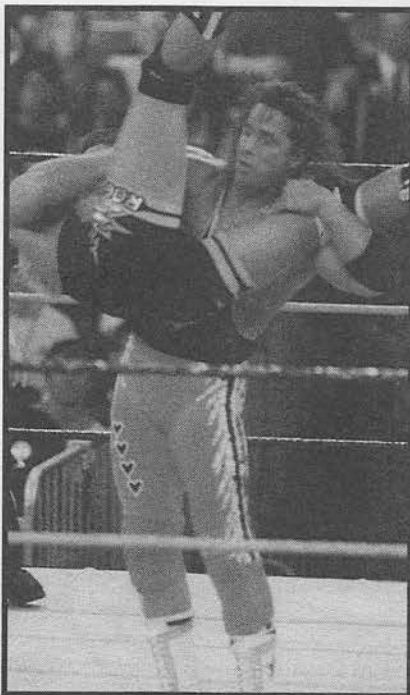
1994 HIGHLIGHT: Winning the WWF World title from Bob Backlund

1994 LOWLIGHT: His split with friend and tag team partner Shawn Michaels

BRET HART

A reconciliation with Owen isn't in the works. The two brothers are too far gone for that, despite their parents' desperate hopes. A return to the top of the WWF heap also is not in "The Hitman's" immediate future. Hart is a two-time former World champion, and

that's how he'll stay; he won't receive a single shot at Diesel. He'll settle for grudge matches against Backlund, win most of

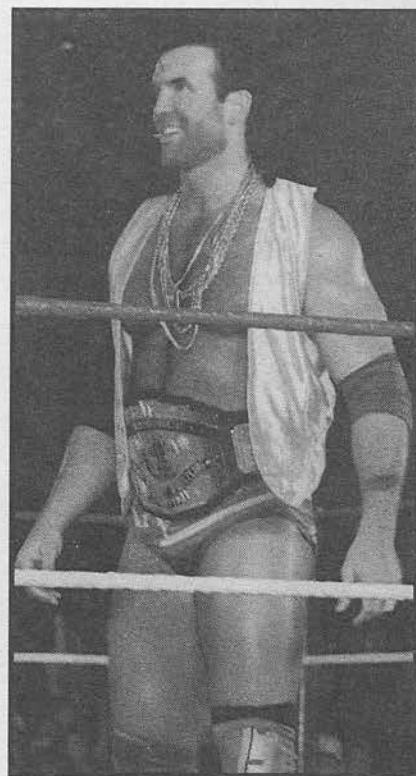


Bret: Summer slide

them, and patiently wait his turn. With a fan favorite in control of the big belt, Bret will concentrate on winning the Intercontinental title. But it won't be enough for the "The Hitman," who has had a taste of being at the top. Bret will slump during the summer and disappear from the WWF ratings by Survivor Series '95.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Winning the WWF World title from Yokozuna at WrestleMania X

1994 LOWLIGHT: Survivor Series '94, when Owen pulled the ultimate deception and Bret lost the belt. A double-heartbreak



Ramon: Bad "Bad Guy" again

RAZOR RAMON

As Diesel turns his attention to different matters, Ramon will find himself at no loss for competition. King Kong Bundy will be the next to try out the "Bad Guy," who will have to make several adjustments before decisively defeating Bundy in a series of matches. But he'll

ultimately lose the Intercontinental title to Shawn Michaels. Battle-worn from a tough 1993-94 campaign, Ramon will begin losing his edge by July of 1995. At SummerSlam, he'll shock the world by turning bad and attacking The Undertaker. Undertaker vs. Ramon will be a major feud during the second half of 1995, but Ramon won't be up to the task.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Successfully defending the Intercontinental title against Shawn Michaels in a thrilling ladder match at WrestleMania X

1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing the I-C title to Diesel on April 13 in Rochester, New York

THE UNDERTAKER

It will be another uneven year for The Undertaker, who will fade in and out of the spotlight during the first half of 1995. One highlight will be a destruction of Jerry

Lawler at WrestleMania XI. Undertaker will battle Bob Backlund at SummerSlam '95, then get attacked by Ramon. A series of Undertaker vs. Ramon casket matches will light up the WWF sky, with Undertaker finally burying Ramon at Survivor Series '95. The year will end with Undertaker on the verge of regaining the WWF World title.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Defeating the impostor Undertaker at SummerSlam

1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing to Yokozuna in a casket match at the Royal Rumble

SHAWN MICHAELS

Having forsaken his partnership with Diesel—and the WWF World tag team title—



Michaels: No thanks, Sherri

Michaels will concentrate on a ferocious feud with the new WWF World champion. They will wrestle in several thrilling matches early in the year. Michaels will win the I-C title at King of the Ring and defend it through 1995, holding off, among others, Bret Hart. Michaels' popularity rating will drop lower than ever, but it will rise slightly after he refuses an offer from Sherri Martel, who wants to return as his manager. Michaels will stuff a pie into Martel's face on a memorable edition of *WWF Monday Night Raw*.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: With Diesel, winning the WWF World tag team title from The Headshrinkers on August 28

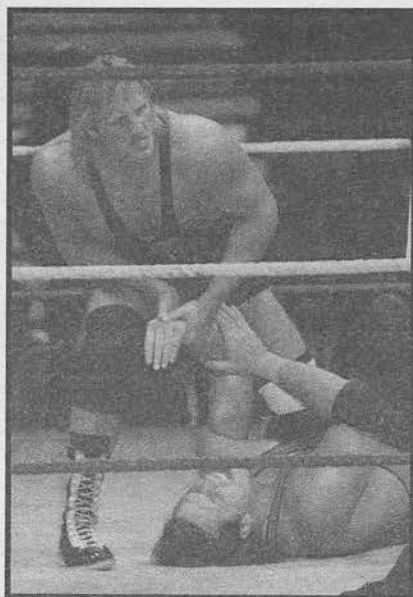
1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing a ladder match to Razor Ramon at WrestleMania X

OWEN HART

Exiled from his family, Owen will have to rely on friends in 1995. One problem: He doesn't

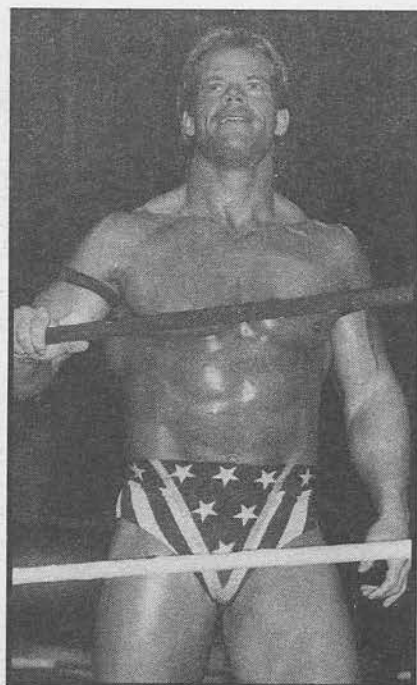


Undertaker: More caskets



Owen: Atlanta-bound

have many left. In fact, Bob Backlund will be Owen's only friend. And Owen will repay the favor by interfering for Backlund on several occasions, helping him stay in contention for the WWF World title for a while. One night while seconding Backlund, however, Hart will strike his head against a turnbuckle and knock himself unconscious. While Backlund is losing the match, Owen will be



Luger: Finally, his year

lying on the arena floor. He'll suffer a concussion and temporary amnesia. He'll finally recover in July. Having forgotten his rift with Bret, "The Rocket" will try to make amends with his brother, but Bret won't listen. Finally, a heartbroken Owen will leave the WWF and look for work in WCW. He'll emerge as a fan favorite at Halloween Havoc and immediately make a run at the U.S. title.

1994 HIGHLIGHT:

Winning the King of the Ring tournament

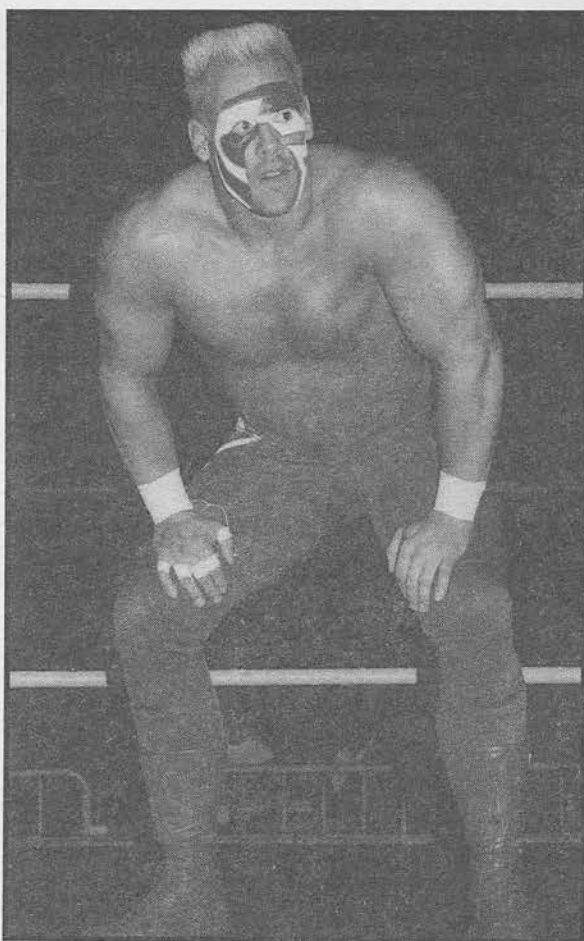
1994 LOWLIGHT:

November 27: Three days after Thanksgiving, Owen calls his parents to wish them a happy holiday. Helen refuses to take the call. Stu hangs up the phone

LEX LUGER

Embracing a new work ethic, Lex Luger will soar in 1995. He'll make it two in a row by winning the Royal Rumble and earning a shot at World champion Diesel. Luger, intent on working out privately, will wrestle only twice between the Royal Rumble and WrestleMania, both times in friendly matches against Bret Hart. With Bret at ringside, Luger will win the World title from Diesel at WrestleMania XI ... and defend it throughout the year. 1995 will end with Luger being named Wrestler of the Year by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Co-winning the Royal Rumble and receiving a



Sting: Stung again

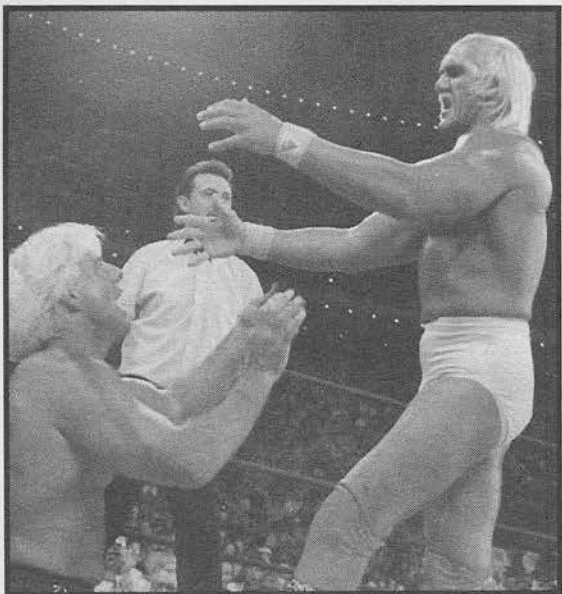
shot at the WWF World title at WrestleMania X

1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing by disqualification to Yokozuna in a World title match at WrestleMania



STING

Sting will spend the first half of 1995 weighing his options: Should he risk his standing as a fan favorite by going after WCW World champion Hulk Hogan, or should he wait for Hogan to lose the belt or retire? Sting will opt for patience, which will be rewarded



Hogan: Playing Vader's pain game

when Hogan loses the World title to Vader in July. After Vader holds off Hogan in a few rematches, Sting will get his shot at Vader ... and frustratingly fall short as Harley Race keeps interfering. As 1995 ends, the world will recognize Sting as the rightful WCW World champion, but Vader will still have the belt.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Winning the International heavyweight title at Slamboree, a belt not recognized by this magazine

1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing to then-WCW World champion Ric Flair at Clash of the Champions XXVIII

HULK HOGAN

With Flair out of the picture, and Brutus Beefcake not posing much of a challenge, Hogan will find himself locked in the battle of his career against Big Van Vader. "He's the toughest man I've ever wrestled," Hogan will comment after a classic match at Slamboree '95. Forced to wrestle Vader twice a week, and five times on a grueling European tour, Hogan will finally succumb to age and his failing body. Vader

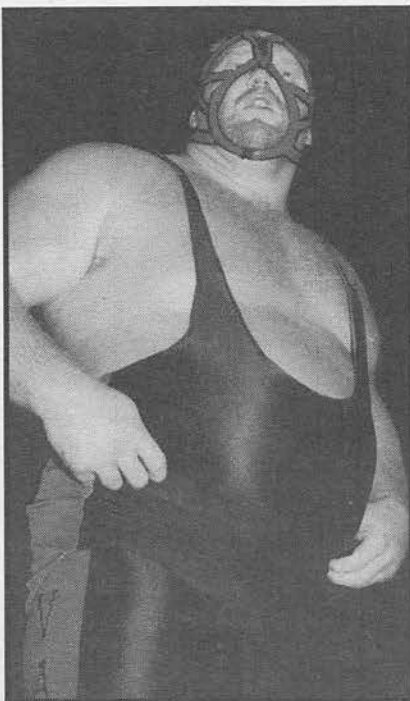
will pin Hogan in the center of the ring—with no interference—in July. Two days later, Hogan will announce his retirement and a new movie deal with Disney Studios.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Retiring Ric Flair and successfully defending the WCW World title

1994 LOWLIGHT: Getting attacked by his good friend Brutus Beefcake after Halloween Havoc

BIG VAN VADER

The big man will assert himself in a big way in 1995, battering Hulk Hogan across North America and Europe, and proving himself to be absolutely invincible. He'll win the belt and retire Hogan in July. Tired, but still tough, Vader will rely on manager Harley Race's interference to retain the belt in another classic



Vader: More carnage

series of matches against Sting. Along the way, Vader will attack and seriously injure Hacksaw Duggan, cause Johnny B. Badd to suffer a serious groin injury, and



Duggan: Forget it

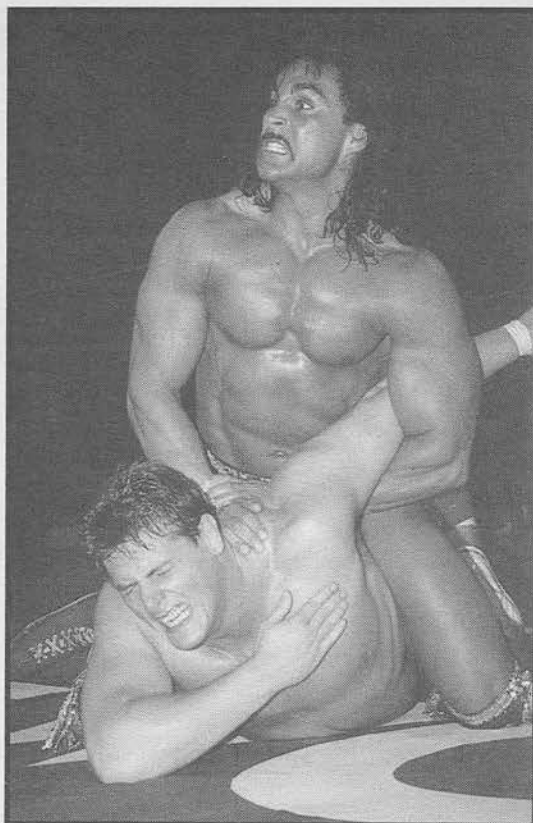
attack a fan at a *WCW Saturday Night* taping. Once again, WCW will have a ruthless champion.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Flair's retirement, which opened things up for Vader to battle Hogan. If Flair had won that match, it's likely Hacksaw Duggan and Sting would have received the bulk of the title matches

1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing to Ric Flair by submission at SuperBrawl

HACKSAW DUGGAN

Duggan's U.S. title reign won't last far into 1995. With Harley Race managing him, Steve Austin will pin Duggan for the belt at SuperBrawl. Demoralized, Duggan won't even attempt to regain the belt. Instead, he'll resort to his



Badd: Not his year

previous role as a flag-waving patriot who doesn't do much once he steps into the ring. It looks like a bad year for Duggan.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Winning the U.S. title from Steve Austin in 27 seconds at Fall Brawl

1994 LOWLIGHT: Getting lost in Hogan's shadow

JOHNNY B. BADD

Unable to overcome Honky Tonk Man's cheating ways, Badd will lose the WCW TV title early in 1995 and fail in several rematches, including a memorable one-sided battle at Slamboree '95. Badd will lose that one, too, by disqualification. Badd will get an unexpected World title shot against Big Van Vader in August ... and nearly lose his life in the process. Vader will stretch Badd's inner thigh muscles around the turnbuckle post, and Badd will suffer a serious groin injury. That's

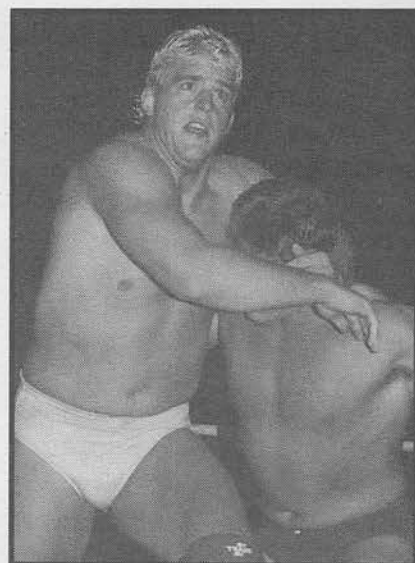
the last we'll see of Badd until 1996.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Beating Lord Steven Regal for the WCW TV title at Fall Brawl

1994 LOWLIGHT: Inability to beat Steve Austin for the U.S. title

DUSTIN RHODES

In 1995, Dustin Rhodes will become a man. He'll finally say to his father, "Let me wrestle by myself. Don't make me stand in your shadows." Dustin's confidence will grow and his wrestling ability will improve. Dustin will lose weight and put on some muscle, immediately putting an end to comparisons to his famous over-



Rhodes: Step aside, pop

weight father. But, again, Dustin won't be able to win a major title. And in October, "The Natural" will drop a bombshell: He's leaving WCW and signing with the WWF.

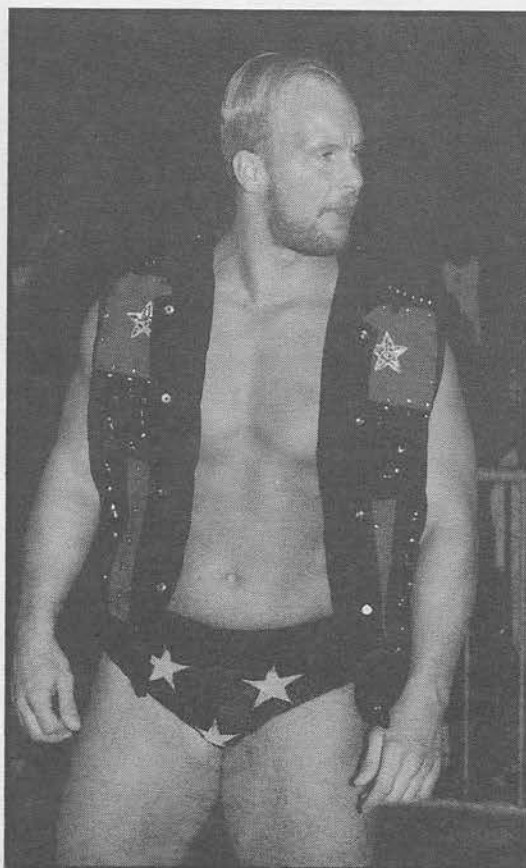
1994 HIGHLIGHT: Wrestling side-by-side with his father, Dusty

1994 LOWLIGHT:

Having his arm broken by his tag team partner, Arn Anderson, at Bash at the Beach

STEVE AUSTIN

Austin's wrestling ability, combined with Harley Race's criminal mind, will combine to make 1995 a breakthrough year for "Stunning" Steve. He'll regain the U.S. title and dominate his competition throughout the second half of the year. In fact, it will become clear that Race has in his stable the two finest wrestlers in WCW: Vader and Austin. But that will result in trouble. Austin will quietly ask for shots at Vader. Race will refuse him. Austin will go public with his requests. Race will refuse



Austin: Fan favorite by '96?

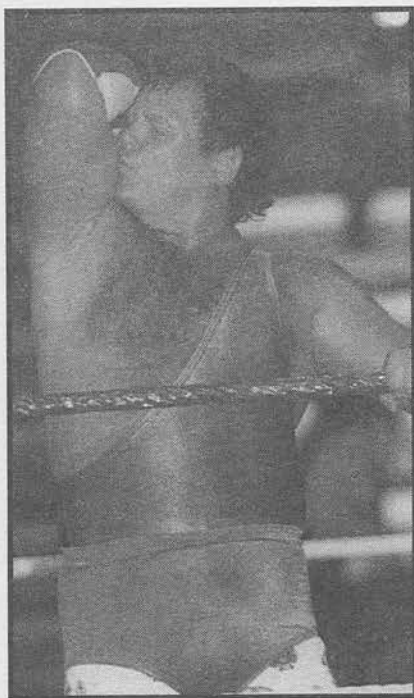
publicly. Vader will call him a turncoat. The event: Starrcade '95. Race and Vader perpetrate a violent sneak-attack in Austin. WCW has a new feud for 1996.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Hearing from WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel that Rick Steamboat had forfeited their Fall Brawl match, and he was the new U.S. champion

1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing the U.S. title to Hacksaw Duggan in 27 seconds at Fall Brawl ... just moments after Bockwinkel named Duggan as Steamboat's replacement

JERRY LAWLER

Send in the clowns. Make that, send out the clowns. Suddenly aware of his damaged reputation, Lawler will stop the clown act and restrict his wrestling to USWA cards, while remaining in his role



Lawler: No more clowning

as WWF commentator. Lawler will continue to berate WWF fan favorites and Vince McMahon. In

the USWA, he'll take another run at USWA champion Sid Vicious and lose dismally. As 1995 ends, Lawler will be announcing more and wrestling less. A great career is headed into the sunset.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Being cleared of rape and sodomy charges in Louisville, Kentucky

1994 LOWLIGHT: The embarrassment and disgrace that accompanied his legal woes, although the charges were dropped.

RIC FLAIR

He's not coming back. He's staying by the pool, hanging out with his wife, and enjoying his retirement. The WWF will make him an offer he can't refuse, but Flair will refuse it. WCW will ask him to wrestle at Slamboree '95. "I'm not an old-timer," Flair will tell them. Vader will try to embarrass Flair out of retirement. It won't work.

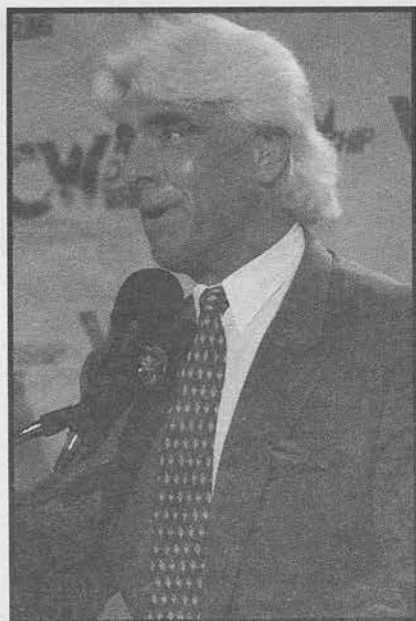
1994 HIGHLIGHT: Retirement. Flair loves it.

1994 LOWLIGHT: Retirement. Flair's ego hates it.

INDEPENDENTS

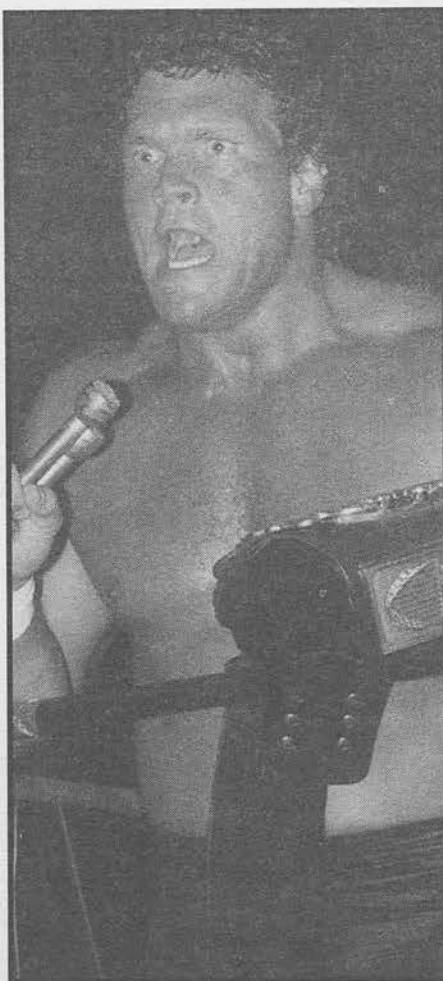
SID VICIOUS

Vicious will remain on top of the USWA, holding off Jerry Lawler, Jeff Jarrett, and others, but his aura of invincibility will be shattered by a series of close calls against seemingly inferior competition. WWF and WCW won't come calling with seven-figure contracts; insiders will cite



Flair: Thanks but no thanks

Sid's attitude as the reason. Shortly after Thanksgiving, Sid



Vicious: Bye-bye again

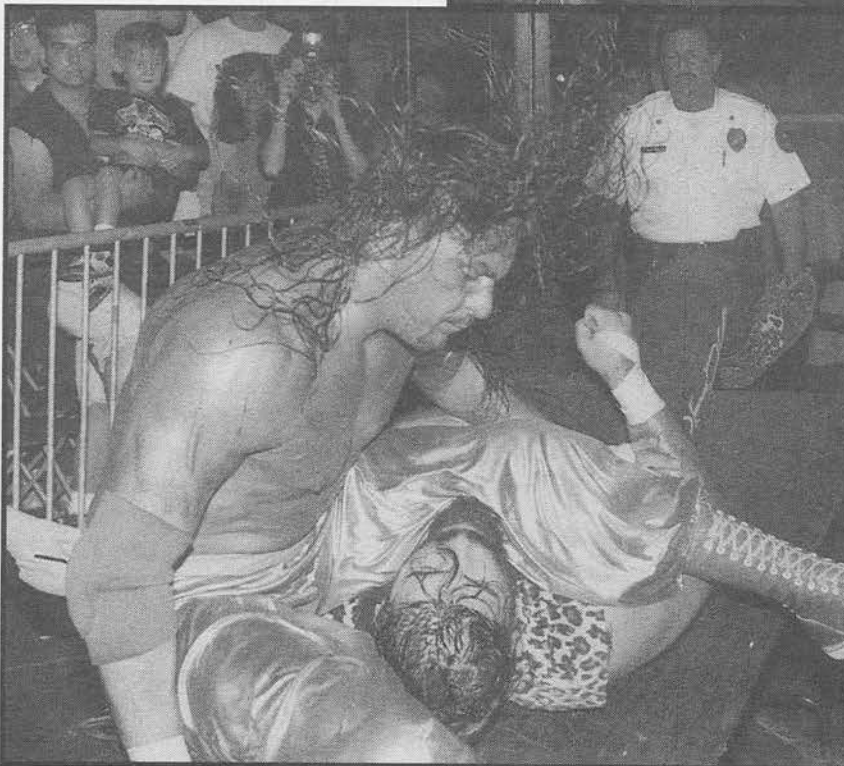
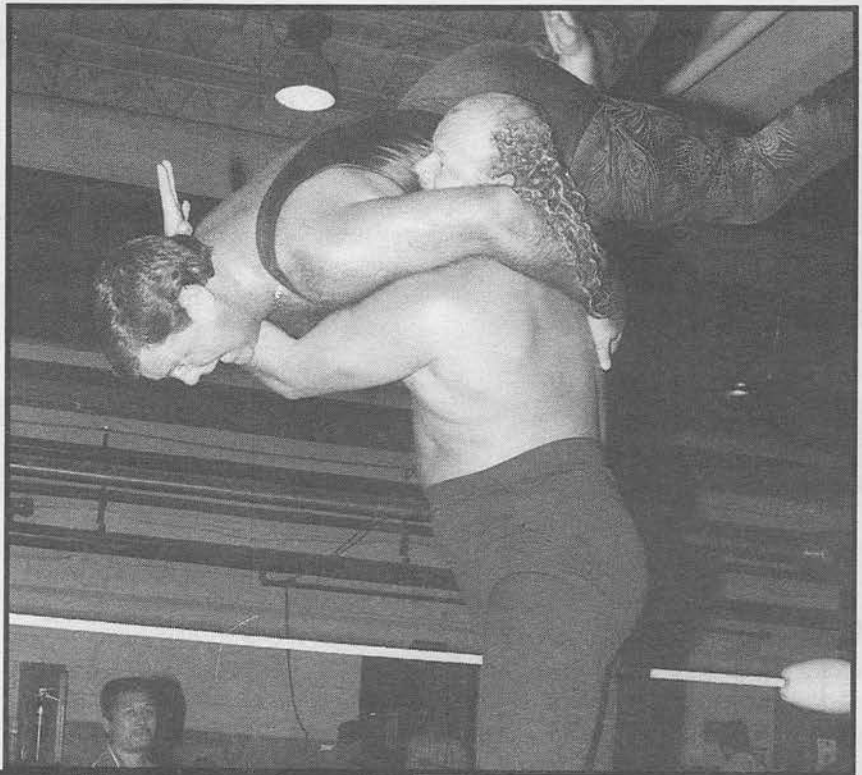
will disappear once again, his career in doubt for at least the fourth time.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Returning to wrestling and winning the USWA heavyweight title

1994 LOWLIGHT: Not receiving any major offers from the WWF or WCW

SABU

The maniacal madman from India will grow tired of sharing the spotlight with manager Paul E. Dangerously and stablemate 911. He will attack both at an ECW card in February. Paul E. will have to be carried away on a stretcher and won't be heard from for three months. A week later, Sabu will win the ECW heavyweight title



Sabu: Dangerous encounter

from Shane Douglas and successfully defend it three times that same night. Woman will offer her managerial services to Sabu, but he will turn her down. The table-smashing daredevil will

finally leave ECW in the spring to sign with the WWF.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Beat Cactus Jack in their first-ever meeting, June 24

1994 LOWLIGHT: Cracked

Anthony: Confused

several vertebrae in a match against Chris Benoit, November 5

TONY ANTHONY

The "Dirty White Boy" will change his attitude again in 1995, and again, and again. From fan favorite to rulebreaker, from rulebreaker to fan favorite, and finally from Southerner to European (as Lord Steven Regal's new sidekick), Anthony will alternately confound, fascinate, and amuse fans. "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly will emerge in the role Toni Adams made famous as the British nanny. Predict Anthony's future? It's an impossible task.

1994 HIGHLIGHT: Winning the Smoky Mountain title from Jake Roberts

1994 LOWLIGHT: Losing to Chris Candido in the semifinals of the NWA title tournament after beating Jerry Lawler in the opening round

THE NASTY BOYS

"TAG TEAM DROUGHT? KISS OUR BUTTS!"

JERRY SAGS AND Brian Knobs had an interesting 1994. They started the year as WCW World tag team champions and one of the most hated teams in the world. They ended the year as top contenders for the tag team belts and one of the most favored teams in the federation.

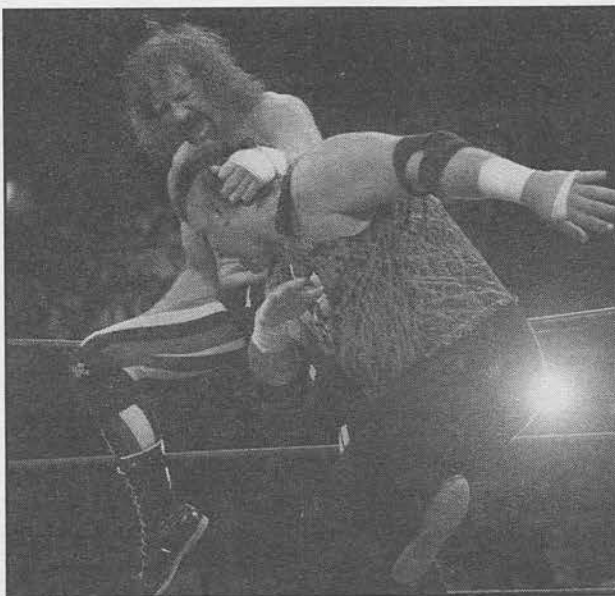
How could so much change in 12 months? First things first. The law of averages finally took its toll on The Nasty Boys. They lost the belts to Cactus Jack and Kevin Sullivan in a Broad Street Bully brawl on May 22 when Jack hit Sags with a hockey stick he borrowed from guest referee Dave Schultz.

The tag team picture also didn't play out right for The Nasty Boys. They received rematches, but couldn't regain the belts. When the tag team belts finally changed hands again, they landed in the laps of Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma. But the line between rulebreakers and fan favorites never stopped The Nasty Boys. They signed for several matches against Roma and Orndorff.

That forced fans to take sides and they sided with The Nasty Boys. The Nasty Boys were so favored that they were voted Tag

Team of the Year by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

Senior Writer Eddie Ellner used to be a big fan of The Nasty Boys. Not anymore. Still, he welcomed the assignment to interview Sags and Knobs after a card at Atlanta's Center Stage Theater. "It was an interesting experience," Ellner reported. "I'll leave it at that."



You don't think that the Nastys are still as tough as ever? They cite their dominance of Terry Funk, one of the meanest men in the history of the sport, at Halloween Havoc as proof that they are.

ELLNER: You know, boys, not too long ago I would have been proud to be sitting here with you. Not anymore. I don't know what happened.

JERRY SAGS: I don't know. Did you turn stupid?

BRIAN KNOBS: Who cares what you think, **ELLNER:**? Nobody cares.

ELLNER: See, that's what I mean? You had an attitude ...

SAGS: Still got the attitude, Ellner.

ELLNER: But you used to be proud members of the rulebreaking fraternity.

KNOBS: What fraternity are you talking about, Ellner? The only fraternity I have is with my partner here. That's the only thing I know.

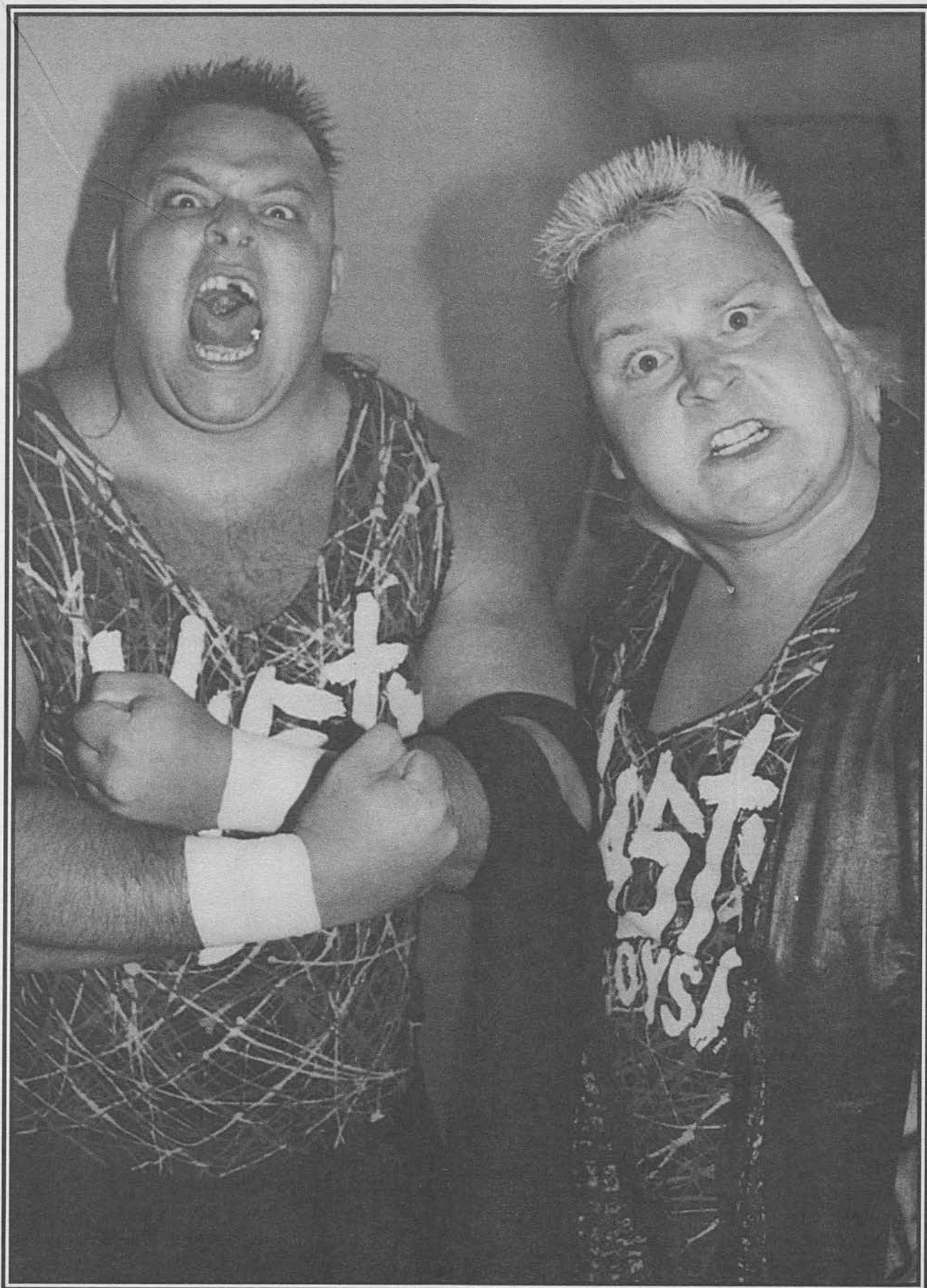
SAGS: I don't know what you're referring to when you say rulebreaking, Ellner, but we haven't changed. You been watching us in the ring lately?

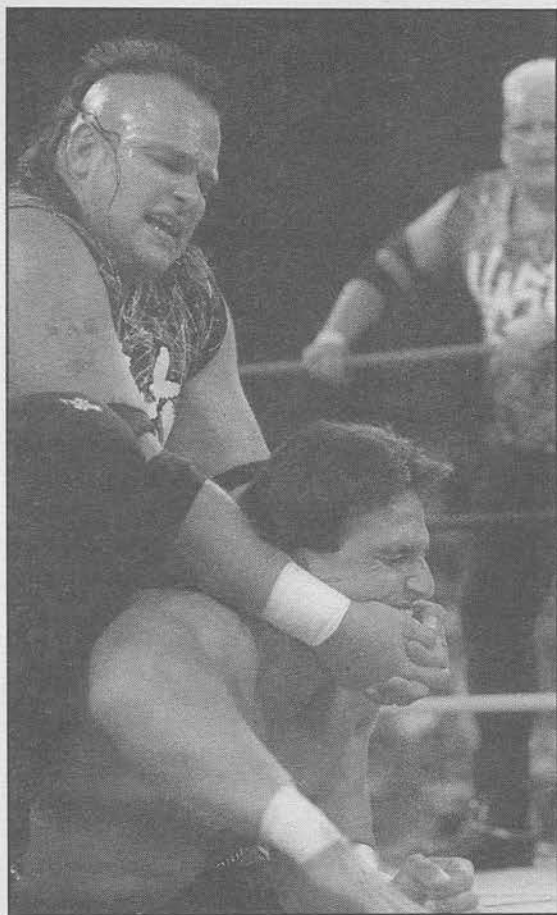
ELLNER: Sure. In fact, I recently watched you guys get your butts kicked by Harlem Heat on national TV. Never thought I'd see the day when I'd be rooting for

Harlem Heat against The Nasty Boys.

KNOBS: What're you trying to say, Ellner? You don't like us anymore? Well, boo-hoo. Hey, Jerry, I don't think I'm gonna sleep tonight!

SAGS: Maybe we should just kick his butt.





from you now. You know I have a valid point, so you resort to this immature, juvenile behavior.

KNOBS: Shut up, Ellner. You don't want to see us when we're mad.

SAGS: Maybe we should get out of here, Knobs. If Ellner doesn't get his interview with us, maybe he'll get fired.

KNOBS: No, let's see what other stupid questions he thought up.

SAGS: Look, Knobs, Ellner looks a little scared.

ELLNER: Enough of that, boys. Let's get back to business. Like I was saying, there are some seriously bad tag teams in both the WWF and WCW these days. Marcus Alexander Bag-

well and The Patriot are lightweights. Harlem Heat is a joke. The only reason they'll go anywhere is because of Sherri Martel ...

SAGS: Speaking of Sherri ...

ELLNER: What are you talking about?

SAGS: Wouldn't you like to know?

ELLNER: Then there are The Smokin' Gunns, The Bushwhackers, The Moondogs, Men on a Mission. It's laughable. We used to have The Road Warriors, The Midnight Express, The Hart Foundation ... what happened?

KNOBS: Uh, you got older?

SAGS: And dumber?

KNOBS: And blinder?

SAGS: Face it, Ellner, you're one of those clowns who goes around talking about the good ol' days. Brings us The Road Warriors. We'll take 'em on and we'll kick their butts all over the ring.

KNOBS: Same for The Midnight Express. Any team you want to throw at us, we'll beat 'em.

KNOBS: Not a bad idea.

SAGS: Hey, Ellner, don't you like it that we were Tag Team of the Year? What's that say to you, stupid?

ELLNER: It says to me that wrestling is in a serious tag team drought. Look at the top 10

KNOBS: Tag team drought?

SAGS: Did he say tag team drought?

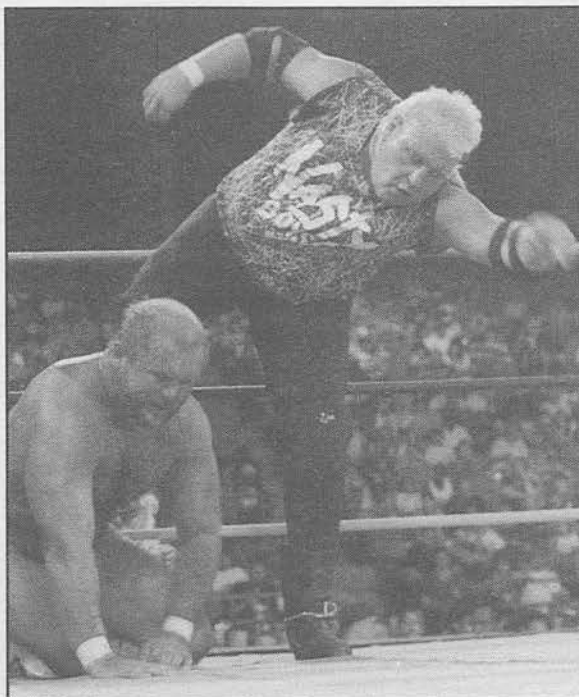
ELLNER: You heard me. Look at the top 10 ...

KNOBS: No, Ellner, you look at this. *(At this point, Knobs and Sags simultaneously turn their backs to Ellner and tug down their wrestling tights, revealing to our reporter an extraordinary sight.)*

SAGS: See that, Ellner? Take a good look.

KNOBS: Tag team drought? Kiss our butts!

ELLNER: Okay, boys, you can put your clothes back on now. But that's exactly the type of behavior I expect



The Nasty Boys are still angry that they didn't get a title match at Clash XXVIII when they faced then-WCW tag champs Paul Roma (above left) and Paul Orndorff. Until they get more title shots, they are busy battling rule-breakers like Arn Anderson (above).

What's the problem, Ellner, ain't we tough enough for you?

ELLNER: Now that you mention it, I think The Nasty Boys have lost their killer instinct. There was a time when you didn't care what you did to who ...

SAGS: Still don't.

ELLNER: So why don't I see more of that?

KNOBS: I don't know, Ellner.

ELLNER: But let's face it. The tag team belts are there for the taking.

KNOBS: You know something, Ellner, that's the first thing we've agreed on today. Those World

tag team belts will be ours. We're the best thing going in WCW and we have been for a long time.

SAGS: In the world, Knobs.

KNOBS: That's right, in the world, and nobody can handle us because we never give up. You saw what we did to Cactus Jack and Sullivan ...

The Nasty Boys would ever team up with Dusty and Dustin Rhodes. That's my problem. The Rhodes family stands for everything that's wrong with wrestling. They're everything you used to hate, but then you went and teamed with them.

KNOBS: Who said we ever hated Dusty and Dustin?



"Bring us The Road Warriors. We'll take 'em on and we'll kick their butts all over the ring!"

—Jerry Sags

ELLNER: You must have.

KNOBS: That's where you're wrong. We didn't. We never hated them and we always respected them. Let me tell you something, Ellner, those boys are tough as nails

and they never stop fighting. You could learn something from them, Ellner. At least they don't hide behind a notebook.

SAGS: And we won, didn't we? I didn't see no Rhodes family holding us back? I thought that was a pretty good alliance.

KNOBS: You know what your problem is, Ellner? You just can't take it that the fans cheer us once in a while? Who cares, 'cause we certainly don't.

ELLNER: No, my problem is that you're wasting your talent.

SAGS: How's that?

ELLNER: Because you don't have the belts.

KNOBS: Well, we would've if those jerks in WCW didn't decide to make our match against Roma and Orndorff non-title.

ELLNER: Which match was that?

KNOBS: Forgot already, Ellner? Clash XXVIII. Cedar Rapids. Sags pinned Orndorff and it didn't matter.

ELLNER: The old Nastys wouldn't have stood for that being a non-title match. They would've fought for their rights.

ELLNER: They beat you.


KNOBS: They beat us, but they paid for it. Where are they in your ratings?

ELLNER: Point taken.

KNOBS: And how about what we did to Bunkhouse Buck and Terry Funk at Halloween Havoc? Sags piledrived that old man right on top of a pumpkin. I know Funk's one of your favorites, Ellner, so what'd you make of that? We destroyed one of the toughest men in wrestling. No problem. What about that?

SAGS: So what's your problem, Ellner?

ELLNER: My problem is that I can't believe in my wildest dreams that



"Those World tag team belts will be ours. We're the best thing going in WCW and we have been for a long time."

—Brian Knobs

SAGS: You know, Ellner, I've got a mind to kick your butt right now.

KNOBS: Let's do it, Sags. Teach this boy a lesson.

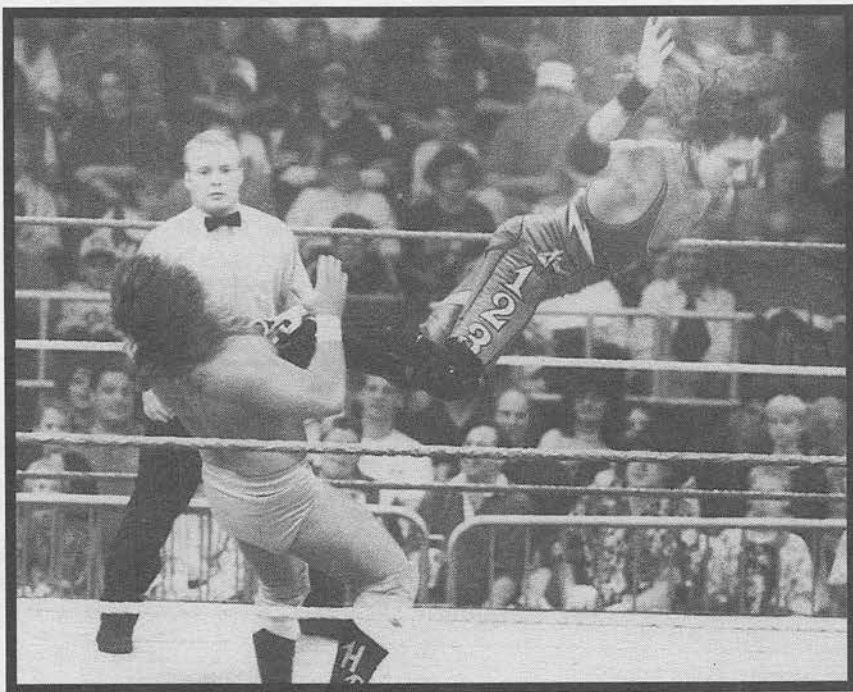
ELLNER: You wouldn't do it.

SAGS: Oh yes we would. *(At this point, Ellner stands up and leaves the room before anything ugly happens. The interview is over.)* □

KID &

Lightweight Flyers With Heavyweight Hopes

It doesn't take big men to win a major title, not in the WWF. The WWF tag team picture is bleak and a couple of little guys named The Kid and "Man o' War" Aldo Montoya are ready to make a huge impact



Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

By Dave Lenker

IF WRESTLING WERE a commercial for plastic storage bags, Men on a Mission would be hefty, hefty, hefty. The Kid and Man o' War would be wimpy, wimpy, wimpy. At a combined weight of 437 pounds, this lightweight team doesn't even reach the poundage registered by just one Man on a Mission (503-pound Mabel).

But if winners and losers in wrestling could be predicted merely by having the contestants step on a scale, Bret Hart never would have beaten Yokozuna for the WWF World title. The Road Warriors would have dominated every team in their path and controlled the WCW World tag team title for years. King Kong Bundy would have beaten Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania II. Andre the Giant

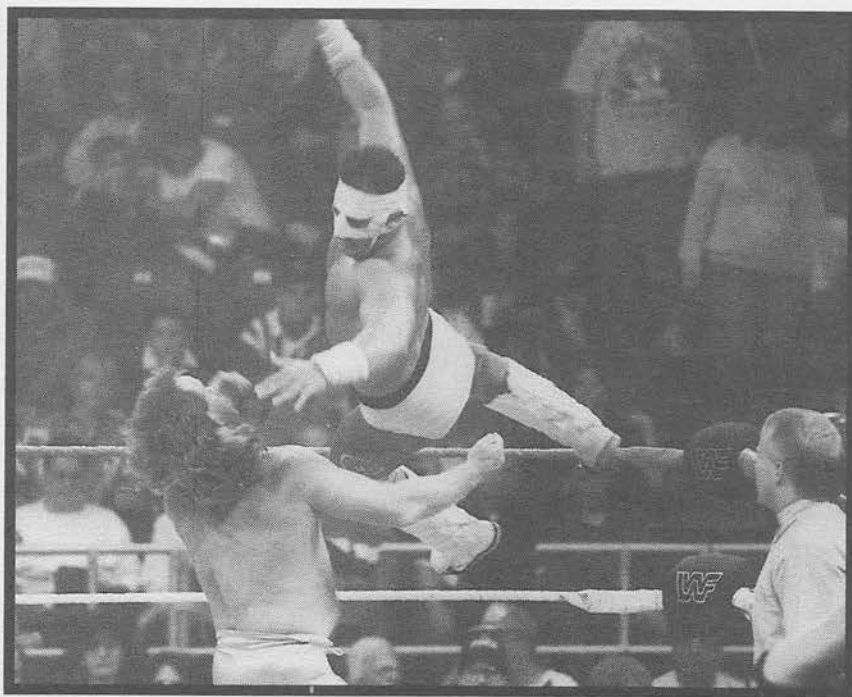
would have won the WWF World title without Ted DiBiase having to buy off an impostor referee.

You get the picture. Wrestling is for heavyweights—even the smallest wrestler is bigger than the average man—but on any day of the week, a small man with sufficient aerial and scientific skills

and contenders to the WWF World tag team belts. When The Kid and Man o' War look over the WWF's current crop of tag teams, they surely see the same things we see.

Men on a Mission. Overweight and underpowered. If they care so little about their physiques, how

MAN O' WAR



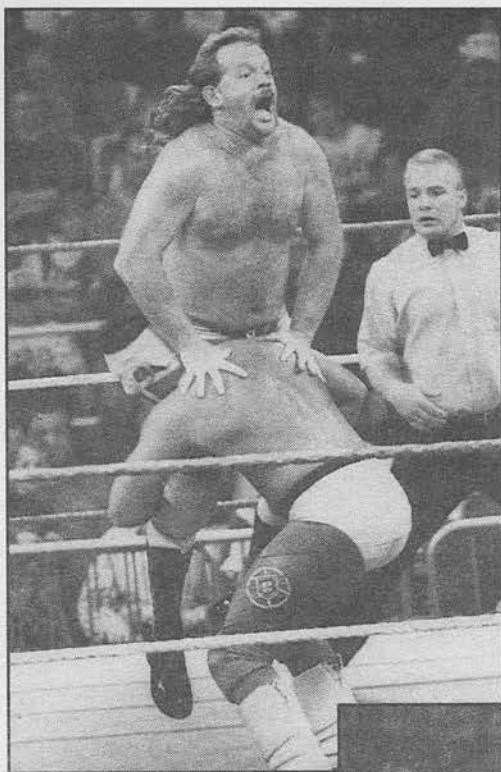
With skills like these, who needs size? Kid's stunning dropkick (opposite page) and Man o' War's amazing top-rope flying bodypress (left) were too much for The Heavenly Bodies. This could be the great young team the WWF needs!

can humble the biggest of them all. The bigger they come, the harder they fall is the motto of wrestling's elite group of light heavyweights.

The Kid and Man o' War (also known as Aldo Montoya) know in their hearts that it's true. They have already scored an important and impressive victory over The Heavenly Bodies, former Smoky Mountain tag team champions

dedicated could they be to winning the tag belts?

The Headshrinkers. Talented but offbeat, more intent on injuring opponents than beating them. The Headshrinkers have been inconsistent nearly every step of the way, even after Capt. Lou Albano came into the fold. These Samoan savages seemed secure as WWF World tag team champions, but they folded upon meeting the only



Del Ray looks surprised as Man o' War gets set to execute a reverse atomic kneedrop (above). That's another advantage he and Kid have. Opponents often underestimate them because they are small; it's usually a huge mistake.

real competition of their short reign: Shawn Michaels and Diesel. Now there's even a new Headshrinker, Sionne, but he hasn't shown all that much.

Michaels and Diesel, by the way, are history. Michaels made it so at the Survivor Series when he threw his tag team belt away, creating another opening for hopeful up-and-comers.

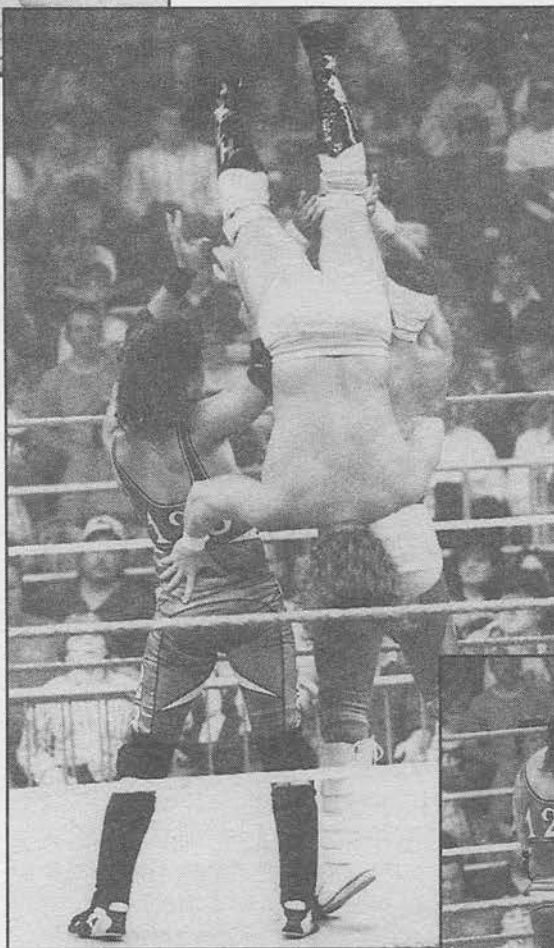
The Bushwhackers—Luke Williams and Butch Miller—can't be taken too seriously, mostly because they don't take themselves

seriously. They'd rather lick each other's faces and play to the crowd than win a championship. They are an average tag team who can contend for, but never win, a major tag team title. Case closed.

The Smokin' Gunns are another marginal duo who would never contend for a major title in a federation packed with talent. They have dominated a feud with The Heavenly Bodies but have never really impressed anyone when a big match came their way. They still need more experience before they can reach an elite level.

The Heavenly Bodies are dangerous on their best days, but The Kid and Man o' War have already handled them ... in their first match as a team.

Strangely, The Kid and Man o' War have not yet bonded as a permanent tag team, despite that huge win over Tom Prichard and Jim Del Ray. Both men are still wrestling mostly in singles matches. Their tag team efforts have been notable, mostly because of the high level of skill displayed. The Kid is one of the finest lightweight in the game. He is a determined overachiever who has made the most of his ability. Although Kid is no longer operating at the rate of an upset per week, he's always on the



When you're not very big—Kid and Man o' War aren't—you can't afford mistakes. They didn't make many against the Bodies and worked well as a team. Here they execute a beautiful back-bodydrop on Prichard (above and right).



fringe of the WWF top 10.

Man o' War, who hails from Portugal, has actually become The Kid's protege. He's another small man with tremendous skills. He once remarked to a reporter that he had given up on the idea of ever becoming a pro wrestler because of his size. The day The Kid beat Razor Ramon was the day he reconsidered his hopelessness and decided his dream could

nents finally get psyched to wrestle them, The Kid and Man o' War rise to the occasion because they have so much talent. The Kid wrestles the same match every time. He tries those high-risk maneuvers and hopes one connects. He's like a quarterback who comes out throwing bombs in the first quarter and hopes to complete five or six passes before he's intercepted five or six times."



come true, too.

He never suspected that he would one day form a tag team with The Kid, nor that they would be on the verge of such success.

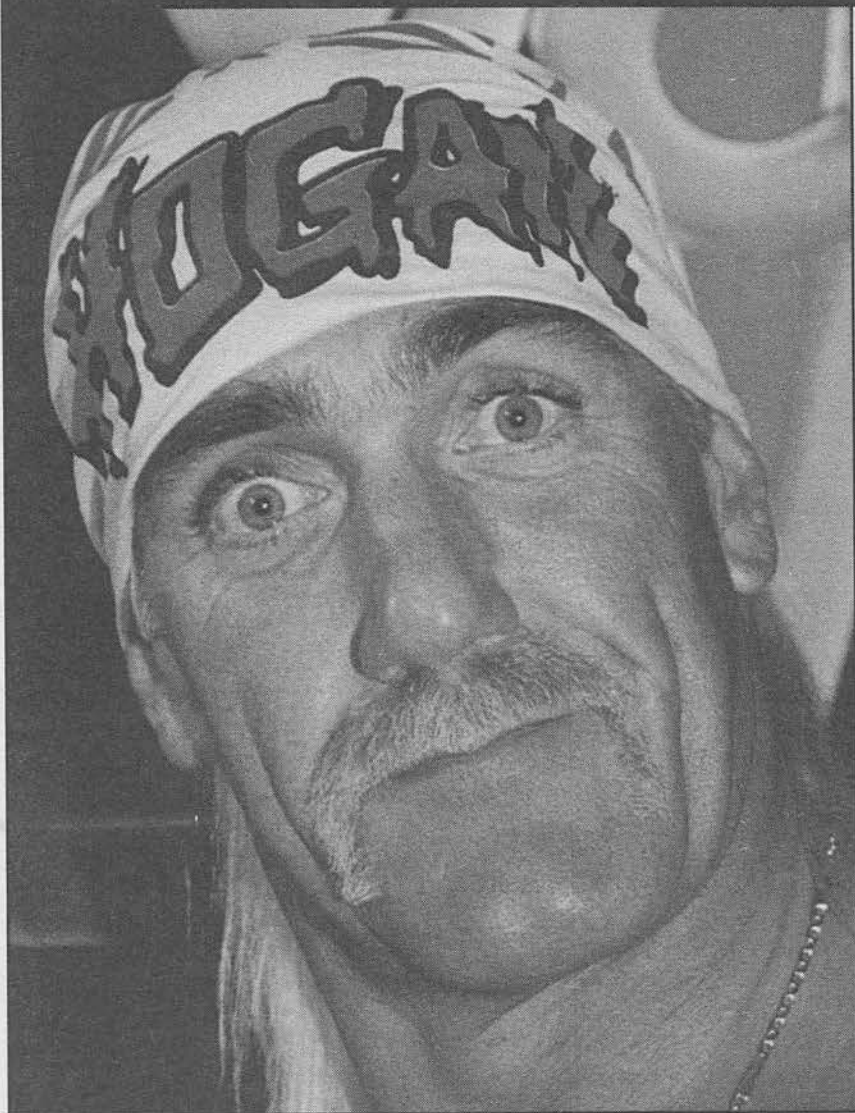
"These two guys come walking into the locker room and nobody takes them seriously," said one WWF fan favorite. "Then they win match after match and still, nobody takes them seriously. It's one thing they have working in their favor. But even when oppo-

These lightweight high-flyers could be good news for a federation desperately in need of new tag team blood. The Kid and Man o' War, like The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Midnight Rockers before them, can make things happen. And they believe in themselves.

Their hopes are high. Everyone else has low expectations, but this small package could make a massive impact. □

Kid has two of the quickest feet in the WWF and here uses his left to stagger Del Ray. If Kid and Montoya were this good in their first match as a duo, imagine how good they'll be when they get more experience. Good enough to win a title, perhaps?

"MY PLAN TO REVIVE



Not long ago, Brian Pillman was enjoying tremendous success, but today he is slumping. There isn't anyone more sorry to see that than Hulk Hogan. In this **INSIDE WRESTLING** exclusive, the "Hulkster" gives his prescription to get Air Pillman flying again!

By Hulk Hogan

HAVE TO TELL you dudes a little story. A few weeks ago, I was walking the beaches of Venice Beach, California, soaking up the sun and getting off on all the positive energy I was feeling. I'm just walking along, and who do I see but "Flyin'" Brian Pillman, sitting on a bench along the boardwalk.

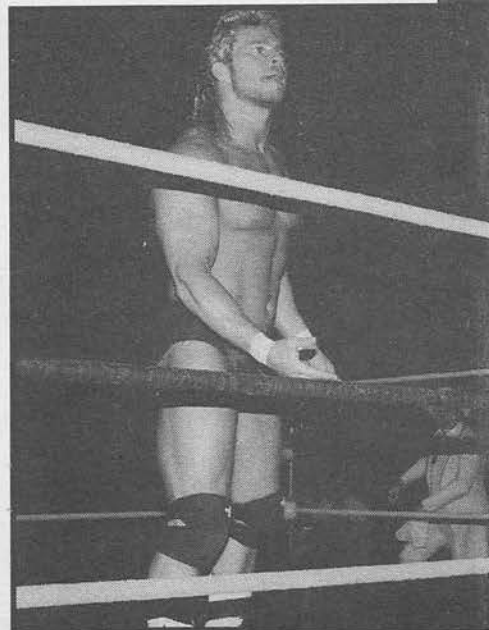
The thing is, this wasn't the same Brian Pillman you're used to seeing. He was just moping along

with his head down. I could tell he was really down on himself. It wasn't a pretty sight.

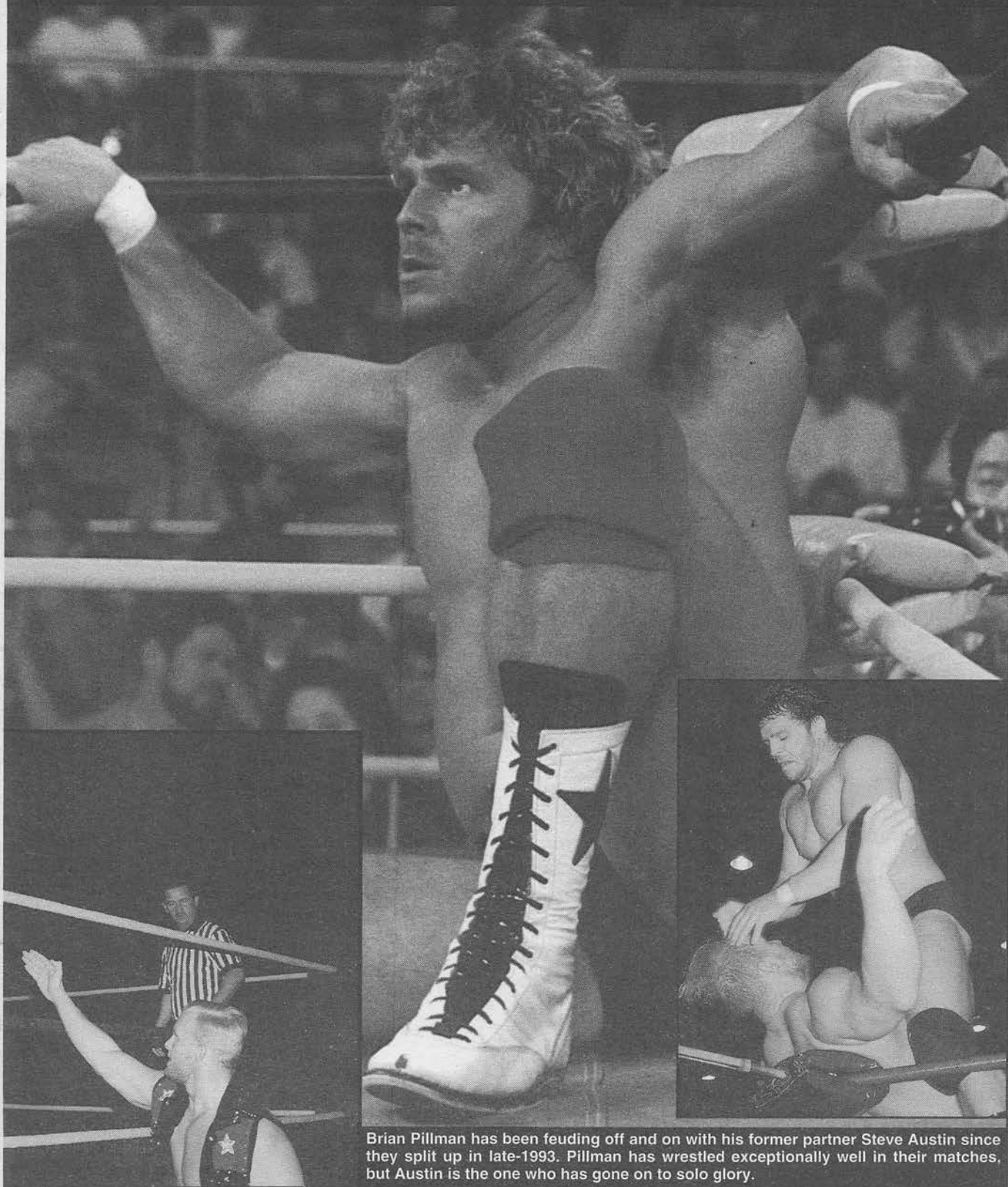
I asked the dude what the problem was, and he said things just weren't happening for him in WCW. Said that no matter what he tried, he couldn't break out of his slump.

"C'mon, dude," I told him. "How bad can it be? You're one of the best wrestlers around. It's not like you're losing every match. Pretty soon you'll be right back on track."

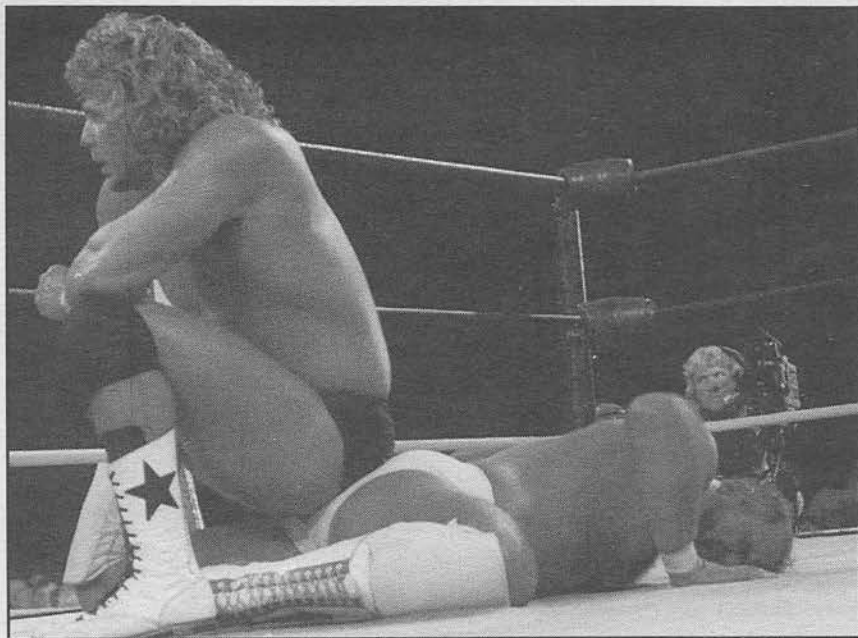
"I don't know, Hulk," he told me.



BRIAN PILLMAN'S CAREER"



Brian Pillman has been feuding off and on with his former partner Steve Austin since they split up in late-1993. Pillman has wrestled exceptionally well in their matches, but Austin is the one who has gone on to solo glory.



Pillman is known for his aerial skills, but, as Hogan notes, he is also a good mat wrestler, as he shows against Arn Anderson. A few losses have shaken Pillman's confidence, but the "Hulkster" thinks he will regain it in time.

"It's just not happening for me. I should be a lot further along than I am now. I see guys I know I'm better than having a lot more success. It's depressing, man. I'm seriously thinking about quitting wrestling for good."

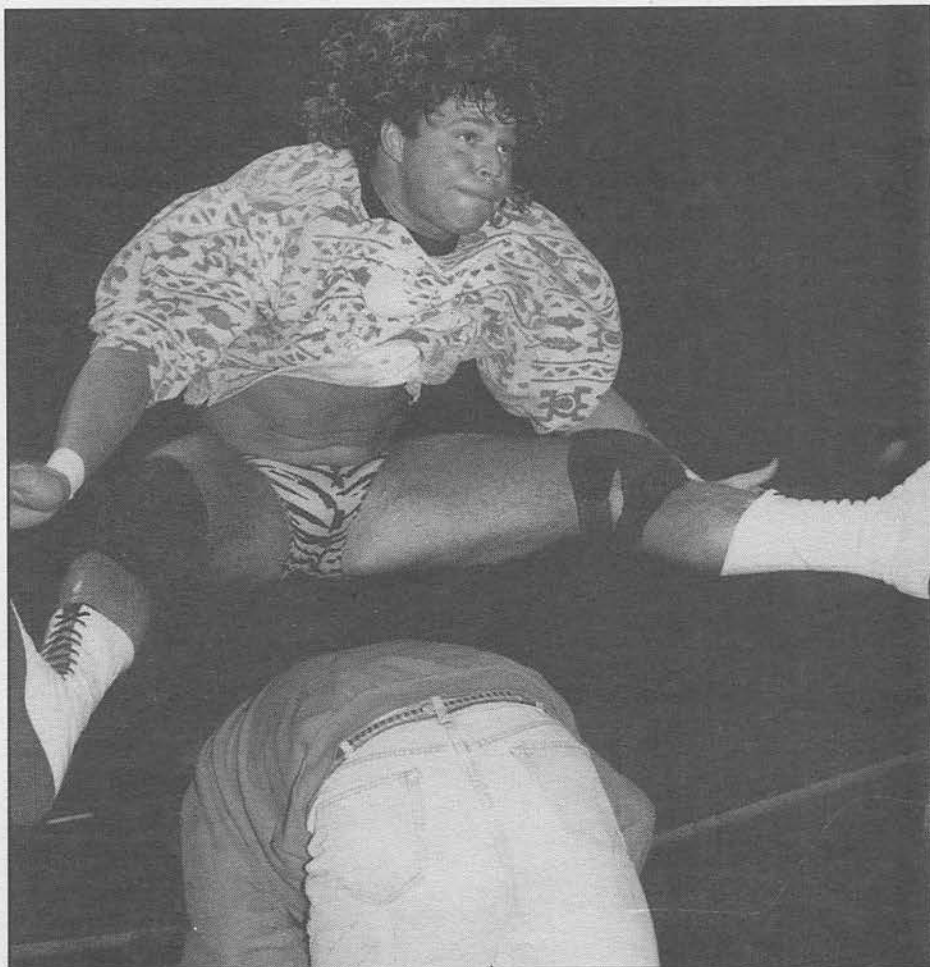
I couldn't believe what I was hearing! Here was one of the best wrestlers I'd ever seen—a guy who hadn't even reached the peak of his career—and he was thinking about throwing it all away. It really bummed me out. For the longest time I couldn't stop thinking about Brian and what he was going through. I felt really bad for the dude. I wanted to help him out in the worst way.

A couple of times I tried to call him, but it seemed like he always had his answering machine on. I'd run into him at one of the arenas and he'd just walk away from me. The dude didn't want to deal with me or any of his friends. Then I got the idea that maybe if I wrote a story, he'd at least give it a look. I'm glad the good folks at *INSIDE WRESTLING* gave me the opportunity. So here it is. I want to make it really clear for everybody in the world to see why I think Brian

Pillman will break out of this slump and go on to greater things than he even dreamed of.

I don't have to tell anybody reading this that Brian is just a great, great wrestler. He's a master of aerial wrestling (I wish I could fly around like him!) and he can do it on the mat just as well. Even before I got here, I used to catch a "Flyin'" Brian match on the tube whenever I could and I was impressed.

Brian's problem is that a few close losses have caused him to lose confidence in himself. And if you don't feel like you're going to win, I don't care how good you are, you're probably not going to win. I think Brian started to lose his confidence when he and Steve Austin lost the WCW World tag team title. They were on top of the



Pillman earned the nickname "Flyin'" Brian by executing many spectacular aerial moves against the likes of Dustin Rhodes (above) and Bobby Eaton (opposite page). Hogan is hoping to help put the Air back in Air Pillman.

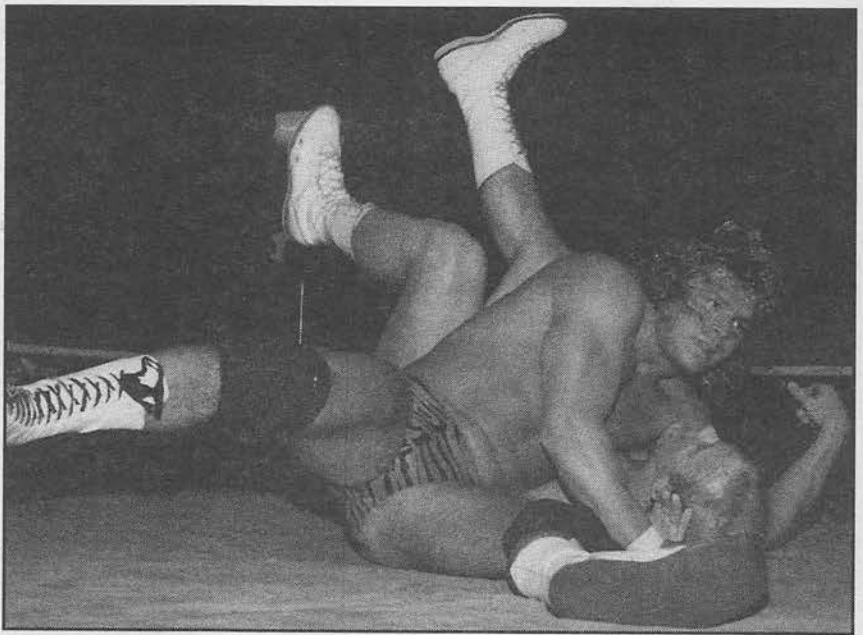
world, then one day it was over. It was real hard for Brian to take not having the gold around his waist anymore. Then Austin went on to have success on his own and Brian wasn't in the spotlight anymore.

But here's the thing: What price did Brian pay for the success he had with Austin? Sure, he was a champion, but without a shred of honor. He and Austin cheated all the time. Half the time they didn't deserve to win. Honestly, when I heard they'd lost the belts, I didn't shed any tears.

In the long run, I think it was a good thing for Brian that they lost. That led to his split with Austin, which pushed him in the right direction again. Brian shouldn't have any doubt he made the right decision.

Unfortunately, I think he does. I think he's too focused on that tag team title, just telling himself that maybe if he did things a certain way, he and Austin could have gotten those belts back. He might seriously be considering turning to rulebreaking again.

Man, what a huge, huge mis-



Even though Pillman seems to hate Austin now, Hogan thinks he still longs for the days when they were WCW World tag team champions. The "Hulkster" advises him not to turn rulebreaker again and hopes he will just take one match at a time.

take that would be. All my "Hulkamaniacs" would back me up on that one. Sure, maybe he'd win a couple more matches. Maybe he'd even win a title. But no way would it ever be worth it. If Brian thinks he's lost respect now, in the long run he'd lose all respect if he became a rulebreaker. I think he's smart enough to realize that.

Of course there's still a problem. Brian has to get that old confidence back, and he has to do it the right way.

First off, he should forget about winning a title. Just put that out of his mind. I don't mean he should give up on his dreams. He needs to stop concentrating solely on winning a championship.

He should start small. Just focus on winning the match at hand. Eventually, the wins will pile up and the title matches will come his way. He's

too good a wrestler to have to force anything.

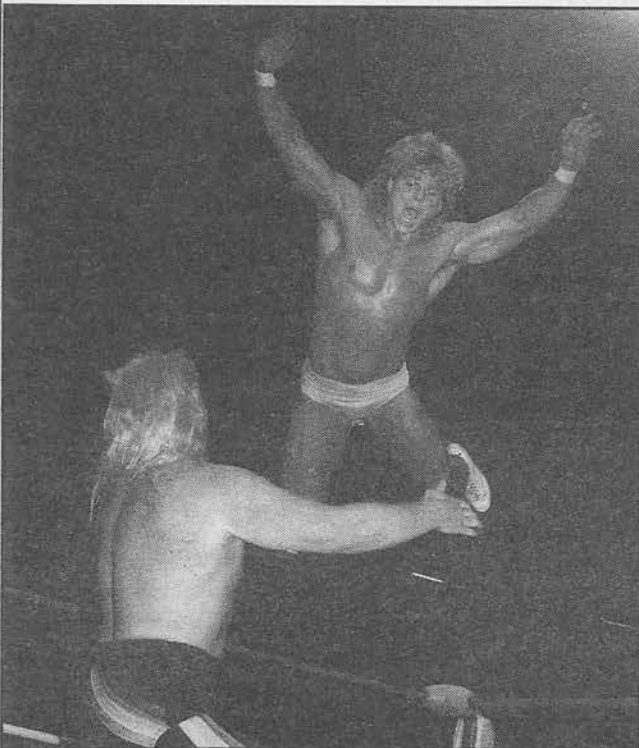
You know, before I came to WCW, they had a great light heavyweight division. Brian held that title twice. I remember he and Jushin Liger had some killer matches. I'll bet that if WCW brought back the light heavyweight division, that would get Brian's competitive juices flowing again.

But right now, if Brian is going to come back, he'll have to do it alongside big guys like Big Van Vader and The Guardian Angel. Still, it didn't stop him in the past, so there's no reason it should stop him now.

Like I said, I'm really committed to helping Brian reach the top again. Brother, I'm so serious that I'm making this proposal: If what it takes for Brian to get his confidence back is for the "Hulkster" to be on his case 24 hours a day, seven days a week, then I'm prepared to do it.

It's all up to him. If he can do it without me, that's fantastic. If not, it's time for the most powerful force in the universe to take a ride on Air Pillman!

□



The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

WITH A HEARTY "Hooooo!" Hacksaw Duggan makes his way to the ring. The Glens Falls, New York, native is one of the most popular—and patriotic—wrestlers in the sport today. Long a mainstay in the WWF, Duggan now competes in WCW, where fans have accepted him just as enthusiastically.

They are less enthusiastic about Steve Austin. Though an outstanding pure wrestler, Austin relies very heavily on rulebreaking. Like Duggan, he has enjoyed a fine career, but he has taken a much different path.

Shortly after arriving in WCW, Duggan decided to pursue the U.S. title, which Austin held. With typical contempt, "Stunning Steve" dismissed the challenge. He should have been more careful. At Fall Brawl, Duggan captured the belt, proving to the ex-champion that a big heart can overcome a lack of technical skills.

In subsequent rematches, Austin often appeared to have regained the championship. However, Duggan ended up winning those bouts on reverse decision after a referee discovered that Austin had used a foreign object to achieve his goal. At Halloween Havoc, Duggan won a different way, gaining the decision by disqualification when Austin threw him over the top rope.

Despite the mounting losses, Austin continues his quest to recapture the U.S. title. He has taken on Harley Race as his manager. Race promises that under his leadership, Austin will achieve the greatness predicted of him, and he'll do it at Duggan's expense.

Duggan remains unfazed and is now more confident than ever. The champion's attitude was apparent when he and Austin squared off not in the ring, but on the telephone. Here is their scintillating conversation ... "One On One."

HACKSAW DUGGAN: Hey, Stevarino! How's it hangin'? Bet you're still sore from the beating I gave you last night! You'll never learn. You think wrestlin' me'll be a one-two-three snap. Every night I have to prove to you how silly you are to believe that. Boy, what a sap!

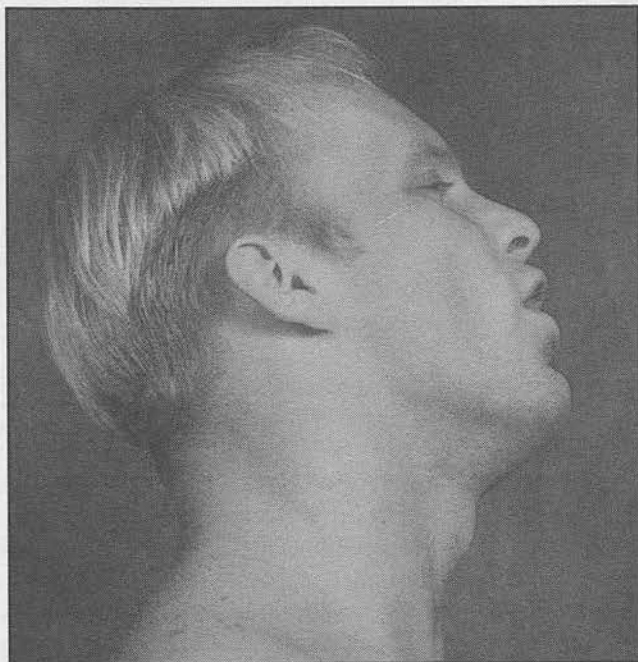
STEVE AUSTIN: You crack me up, Duggan. You really do. I mean, you actually think you've been getting the better of me, when all you've really been doing is stealing—yes, stealing—matches from

me. I won those pinfalls legit. That belt should be mine again. Then, magically, these refs decide to give you the belt back. It's corruption. It stinks to the high heavens, and WCW won't do a damn thing about it!

HD: What are you babblin' about, Austin! The refs catch you red-handed with a foreign object, and all you can say is there's some sort of conspiracy against you. Be a man! Admit that you cheated. At least that way, I might have some respect for you.

SA: Talk about respect. Do you know who has respect for me? A good friend of yours, Rick Steamboat. He wrote a story that said I'm one of the most talented guys in wrestling. Are you prepared to tell me your friend doesn't know what he's talking about?

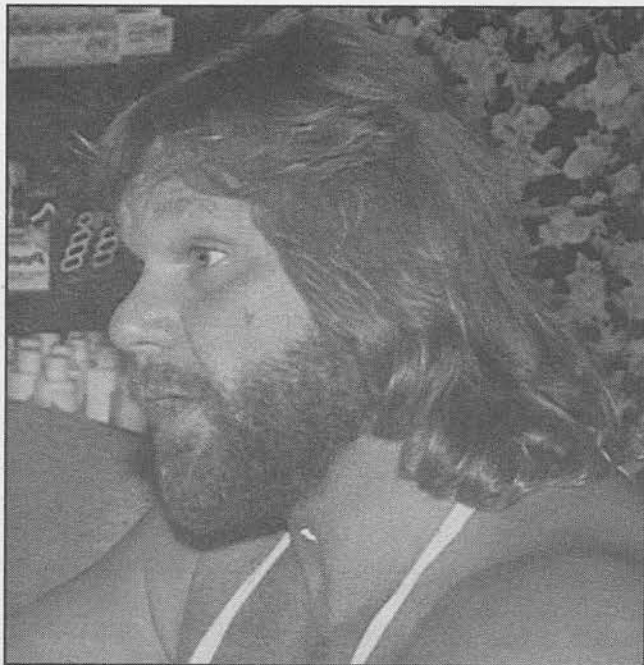
ONE ON ONE



"You and all your pals in the WCW front office have denied me since [Fall Brawl]. But I will have that title back in my possession very soon. You can't deny greatness."

—Steve Austin

N ONE



"Hah! If you're so great, then why do you need Harley Race in your corner? You obviously need some assistance. I wanna hear you try and explain this one!"

—Hacksaw Duggan

HD: No way, Jose! I'll stand by my buddy "The Dragon" come hell or high water. Yeah, he said you have a lot of talent, but he also said it's a shame how you spend so much energy breakin' the rules. You only read what you wanted to read, Austin. You don't pay attention. Maybe if you pay attention for once, you might give up tryin' to win this U.S. belt from me!

SA: There's no chance I'll stop coming after you. From where I stand, that belt still belongs to me. You got lucky at Fall Brawl. You and all your pals in the WCW front office have denied me since then. But I *will* have that title back in my possession very soon. You can't deny greatness.

HD: Hah! If you're so great, then why do you need Harley Race in your

corner? Answer me that, Stevarino! You say you're one of the greatest wrestlers ever, but you obviously need some assistance. I wanna hear you try and explain this one!

SA: I don't need to justify my actions to anybody else, Duggan, but I'll try to make this clear, even for you. Harley Race isn't in my corner because I need him there. He's there because I want him there. Harley's a brilliant tactician. He's one of the finest minds in the sport. You can't deny that. Look at what he did for Big Van Vader's career. Now Vader and I are different in a hundred ways, but I recognize that having Race aboard can be a tremendous asset. Now I don't have to worry about all the little details. I can concentrate strictly on wrestling. At this moment, that's especially bad news for

you and your title reign.

HD: Talk, talk, talk. That's all that was. Face it, Charlie, the only reason Race is there is so he can throw you a pair of brass knucks and bail you out for the umpteenth time. Doesn't matter, though. You can't beat me even with Race. You can't beat me with the whole Russian army. You wanna know why? I got the people behind me! With all these great fans in my corner, there's no way I'll lose this belt. I'm representing them and the entire U.S. of A! Beat that, Austin!

SA: I don't need phony inspiration from this nation of know-nothings. I look within myself for motivation. Relying on the fans; that's a sure road to failure. In the end, they'll always turn against you anyway. I know, because I went that route once. I wised up. Obviously, you haven't. Doesn't surprise me, though. So keep your false patriotism and leave this sport to the real athletes.

HD: I'm surprised at you, Austin. I didn't think even you would knock your own country that way. Stand up for the red, white, and blue!

SA: Duggan, I'm as proud to be an American as you are, but I don't use that pride to milk support from people I couldn't care less about.

HD: Maybe if you thought more about the folks and less about yourself, you'd have this U.S. title. Boy, you smart guys never cease to amaze me. You got all those brains, but you got no common sense. You should start listening to the people again, Austin. Seems to be you did pretty well when you had them on your side.

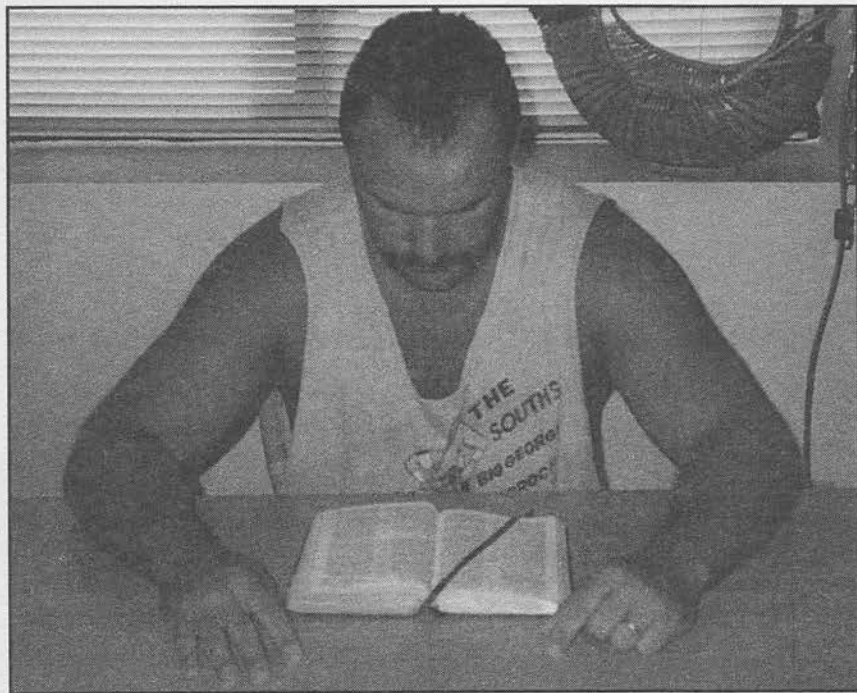
SA: You couldn't be more wrong, Duggan. I didn't do a damn thing in this business until I quit that popularity contest. I've been WCW TV champion, World tag team champion, and U.S. champion, all without the support of the fans. I shouldn't exclude all of them, though. A lot of people are starting to see through all the hype and recognize the true talent. You and your buddies are just blinding the rest from reality.

HD: Here's reality: I got the U.S. belt, and you don't! Take that!

SA: I will take it, next time we get in the ring together. □

Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)



George South gets high praise for his religious beliefs from reader Ethel Thompson. She's glad to see him place such high priority on his faith in God and considers him an excellent role model.

stood in the way of Beefcake's greatness. Yes, Hogan was his best friend, but what did he give to Brutus except a spot in his shadow? Hart gave Brutus a title,

direction, money, and glory. Now maybe Hart is giving Brutus just what he's always wanted: a chance to end the career of the one man who kept him down. It would be the mastermind of the century.

Hogan, don't trust Hart with anything. Remember, you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

GINA ELLIOTT
Raven Run, PA

HIGHER POWER

I was happy to read about George South's religious quest in wrestling ("Can Religion & Wrestling Mix? George South: Born-Again Brawler," Winter 1994). I think that he should be commended for his crusade for religion. In today's society, there are very few outstanding role models for people of every gener-

ation to emulate. George South is proof that no matter what you do, there's always room for God. I hope he accomplishes his goal of leading people to the Lord. He will be rewarded for his efforts with something that far surpasses any championship belt.

Thank you, George South, for being a man whom everyone can respect.

ETHEL THOMPSON
Monroeville, PA

STOP HOUNDING LEX!

I totally disagree with your assessment of Lex Luger as the "Most Overrated Wrestler Of The Half-Decade" (Winter, 1994). Lex is still the total package that he always was. Maybe everyone would notice that if your magazines would stop writing off his career. All I ever read in your magazines is how Lex "just isn't what he was supposed to be" or "he's not living up to his potential." How can he concentrate on his career when all he reads about himself is that he was a flash-in-the-pan?

I'm not making any excuses for him, but Lex got some bad breaks in the last few years. When he left the WCW for bodybuilding, he may have lost some of his competitiveness, but he's trying to regain his momentum. It just that nobody gives him a chance. Besides, what does Lex have to prove? He's a former world champion, which is a status most wrestlers only dream of ever achieving.

I think that you should leave Lex alone because he will one day soon be the champion that we all know he could be.

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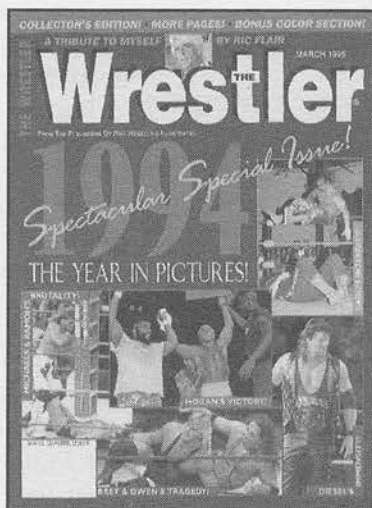
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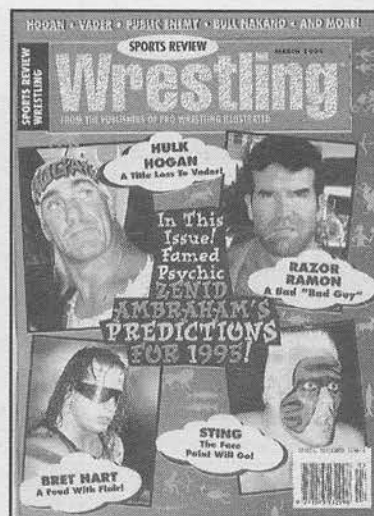
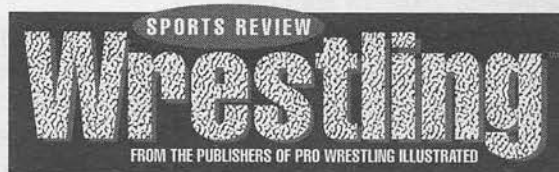
Wrestler^{THE}



1994 was a year filled with triumph and tribulations.

It included a second WWF World title reign for **BRET HART**, the beginning of the **HULK HOGAN** era in WCW, the **VINCE McMAHON** steroid trial, and more. We have it all in "The Year In Pictures" ... The WWF has dominated wrestling for more than a decade, but how does the WWF of 1995 compare to the WWF of 1985? We compare the two to find out which one is better ... Who better to write a tribute to one of the greatest wrestlers ever, **RIC FLAIR**, than Flair himself? ... **HULK HOGAN** orders **DAVE SULLIVAN** to annihilate his brother **KEVIN**, but how far will the number-one "Hulkamaniac" go to please his mentor?

All this—and much more!—in the March 1995 issue of *The Wrestler*



What does the new year have in store for **HULK HOGAN**? **RAZOR RAMON**? **ALUNDRA BLAYZE**? **STING**? Famed psychic **ZENID AMBRAHAM** reveals her predictions for 1995; it could be a very strange year in wrestling ... Just because **RIC FLAIR** is retired doesn't mean he has to leave the sport completely. He could be, say, a manager. How would the "Nature Boy" look in the corner of **BIG VAN VADER**? Sources say the big man wants **HARLEY RACE** out and Flair in! ... **JEFF JARRETT** joins the **HART** family. Sounds like a headline out of one of those tabloids, but "Double-J" really would like to enter the camp of **OWEN HART** and **JIM NEIDHART**

All this—and much more!—in the March 1995 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*



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On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

is most greatly felt within the sport. With that in mind, my vote goes to Ted DiBiase, who made a smooth transition from wrestler to manager and became the most influential personality in the WWF. DiBiase convinced Nikolai Volkoff to return to rulebreaking and turned long-

Funk and Sabu are a distant second. As an aside, the feud between Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair was perhaps the biggest disappointment of the year. The hype far exceeded the quality of the matches and the battles were one-sided, with Hogan having his way with Flair practically every time.

Match of the Year: This is another no-brainer. The ladder match between Shawn Michaels and Razor Ramon for the Intercontinental title at WrestleMania X was the greatest match I have ever seen. Senior Editor Bill Apter, who has seen only 17 trillion more matches than I have, rates it the same way.

Tag Team of the Year: This is undoubtedly the worst division in the sport. Rick and Scott Steiner were last year's winners and they were not even under consideration this year. The Headshrinkers? PG-13? George South and Italian Stallion? Give me a break!

Wrestler of the

Year: Ric Flair was the first-half winner. Hulk Hogan was the second-half winner. Plenty of others showed flashes of brilliance. But no one sustained quality performances and a consistent level of excellence over the entire year as well as Bret Hart. He is clearly the best wrestler in the world and spent all of 1994 proving it to everybody. □



Hulk Hogan's comeback was magnificent, but the boost ex-WWF World Women's champ Alundra Blayze gave to women's wrestling in 1994 should earn her the award in this category, says Bernucca.

time enemies Shawn Michaels and Tatanka into teammates in a few six-man matches. That's influence. That's power. That's managing.

Feud of the Year: Do you mean besides Bret Hart vs. Owen Hart? Really, now. What else could top a pair of brothers who hate each other competing on almost a nightly basis for the federation's biggest prize? The brawls between Terry

The Insider

(Continued from page 14)

satisfied until he shakes the WWF house off its foundation. When Backlund was in his wrestling prime, he was like a Woody Allen film—critically acclaimed, but never much of a money-maker. With the WWF staggered by the defection of its most popular stars, it now must rely upon Backlund to regain its lost heat.

In the words of today's biggest media superstars, "Heh, heh, heh, heh, heh, heh..."

NEWS ITEM: Big Van Vader pursues Hacksaw Duggan and the U.S. title. If you are of a religious bent, say a prayer appropriate to your denomination for the soul and body of every Vader opponent. By bureaucratic decree, the legend of the '90s finds himself embroiled in a feud with

the blowhard of the '80s. Look up injustice in the dictionary and you will find Vader's bloody fist.

The problem, Vader insists, is one of WCW's other champions. "Promoters are scared I'm gonna kill Hogan," Vader says. "But I promised not to end his wrestling career without setting him up for a different one."

Vader's idea? "I want to bust him into thousands of little pieces and put each one into a little globe that snows when you shake it. If they would arrange the match, we could get them in stores for Christmas." Hear that, marketing and development? Sounds reasonable to me.

NEWS ITEM: Jim Cornette joins The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Live long

enough and you really do see everything. What's next? Mr. T wins a title? Even I can tell Cornette is up to something. Cornette says he wants to help the Rock 'n' Olds because he got dissed by The Gangstas, who just happen to have the Smoky Mountain tag team belts. After receiving 10 years' worth of well-deserved beatings from Cornette's tennis racket, you'd think Robert Gibson and Rick Morton would know not to trust him. This is, after all, a man who didn't break into wrestling because he wanted to make some friends.

As one of America's most respected and intelligent philosophers once said, "Stupid is as stupid does." ☐

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Behind The Door

(Continued from page 12)

brother Owen did. Meanwhile, Owen Hart sees a down year for his brother and an up year for himself. He even thinks he'll win the King of the Ring tournament for the second consecutive year. A bold statement from a man who went about 1-1000 against his brother in 1994.

Jerry Lawler had this to say: "I'd like to stay away from clowns and midgets for a while. They can't be trusted. The way I'm looking at things, Sid Vicious needs to be brought down to size, and I haven't held the USWA title for a while. I'm itching to get it back and now I'm motivated to get the job done. And I'm going to get it done. That's my prediction for 1995: No more clowns, no more Vicious, and no more USWA champions except Jerry 'The King' Lawler."

Steve Austin also has high hopes for 1995. The former U.S. champion has a new manager in Harley Race and a new outlook on life.

"I know in my heart that I can get by on my God-given ability alone," Austin said. "The way I see it, I'm the best wrestler this federation—any federation, for that matter—has to offer, and nobody's going to stop me from regaining the U.S. title from that punk Duggan. If not, then the World title. In 1995, you're going to see 'Stunning' Steve Austin back on top of the wrestling world and Hacksaw Duggan looking for a job as a flag-

raiser. Harley Race is going to have two champions in his stable: me and Vader."

Men on a Mission are looking at a return to WWF World tag team title supremacy, but they'll have to outdo The Headshrinkers, who

those three and maybe there'll be more Headshrinkers. I don't know. I'm giving you five years for your money—predictions for 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999, and they all have The Headshrinkers on top of the WWF."

I wasn't surprised that wrestlers—egomaniacs as they are—all had positive predictions for themselves. But wasn't anybody heading into 1995 with guarded optimism? I found somebody.

You won't believe who it was.

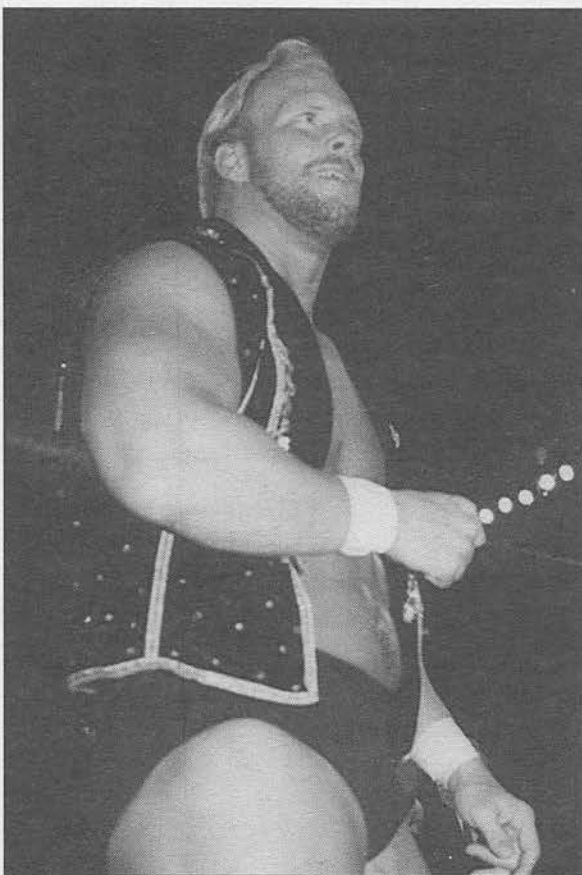
Hulk Hogan.

Yes, Hulk Hogan.

"Things aren't getting any easier for me," Hogan said in a brief moment of introspection. "Flair's out of the way, but Vader's tough and there are a lot of other wrestlers for me to worry about. Avalanche, Kevin Sullivan ... but the thing I'm most worried about, brother, is Brutus Beefcake. He's gone bad and I don't know what happened. I'd like to get my friend back, but I'm not sure if I can. And if I can't get Brutus off my mind, how am I going to deal with Vader? It's going

to be tough, I'm the first to admit it, but I think I'll find a way to get through if my 'Hulkamaniacs' stand behind me. I'm going to need them more than ever."

So 1995 begins with an appeal to the "Hulkamaniacs" from a man named Hogan. A prediction from this reporter: Hogan won't be a wrestler when 1996 begins. □



Steve Austin figures the addition of manager Harley Race will help regain the U.S. title or maybe even win the WCW World title. Shocking comments from a man known for his modesty!

are looking very sharp these days.

"Predictions? I don't make predictions," said Capt. Lou Albano, The Headshrinkers' manager. "I deal with facts and only facts, and let me tell you, brother, The Headshrinkers are going to win those belts early in 1995 and hold them all the way to 1999. Sionne, Samu, Fatu ... it could any two of

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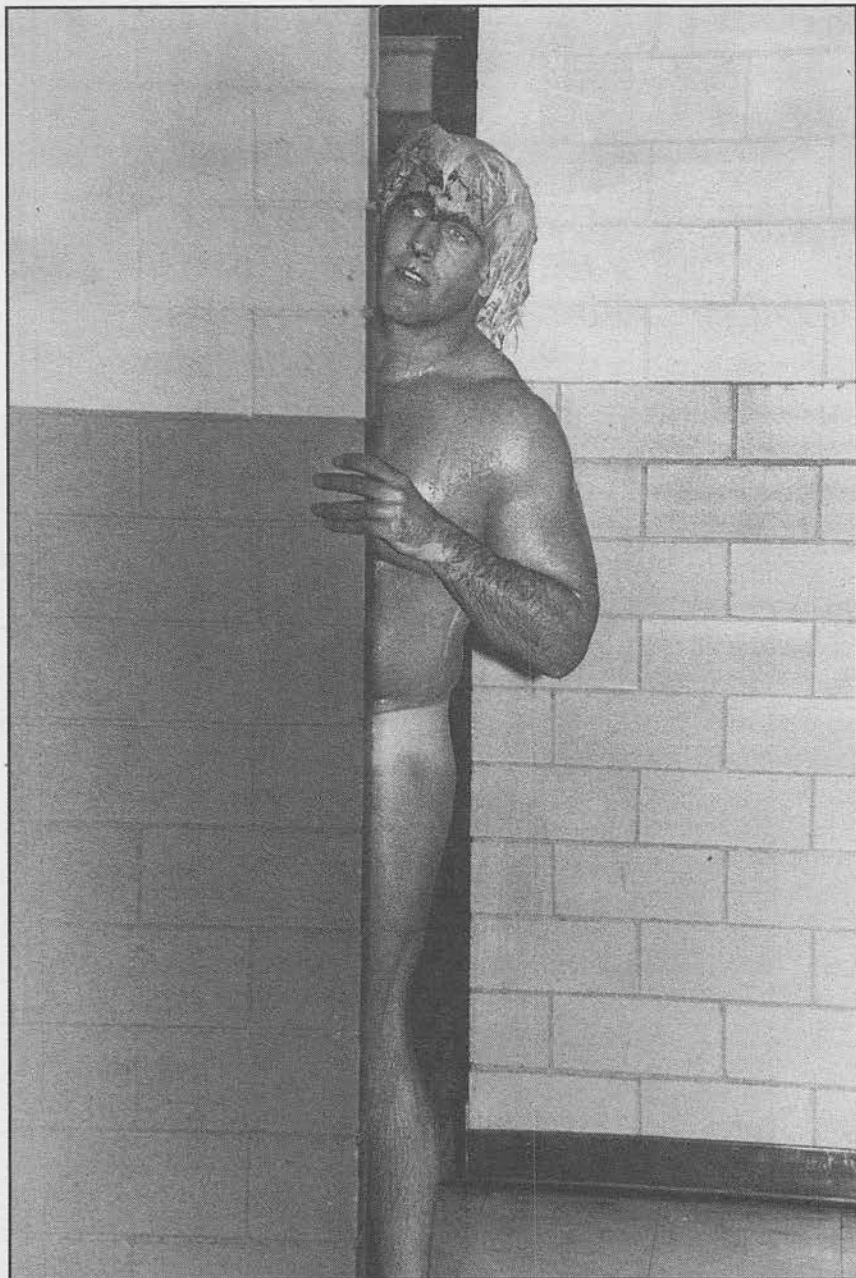
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On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



A decade ago, Liz Hunter had some harrowing experiences with certain wrestlers. A naked Ric Flair wasn't shy about talking to Liz while he was in the middle of a shower. Some athletes, she found, are very rude to female reporters.

cies regulating media-player relations, the locker room interview is an uncomfortable moment for a female reporter.

"Even for a man, I think it's disconcerting to be interviewing a

naked athlete," one prominent female TV producer told me. "But for a woman, it's extremely awkward, even under the best of circumstances. While most athletes are gentlemen, there will always

be someone who checks in with a comment or tries to unnerve you. I've had ballplayers make bets with each other to see who could embarrass me.

"The pleasant experiences far outweigh the difficult ones, but it's the difficult ones you always remember."

"I agree with that," said Brandi, "because I had one experience I will never forget. After my Cornette interview, I was cornered by a famous wrestler—a famous naked wrestler—and he asked if I wanted to interview him. This particular wrestler doesn't grant many interviews, so of course I jumped at the chance.

"He had no intention of getting dressed, however. He stood there the whole time without any clothes, or even a towel, while I stammered my questions. Pretty soon I realized other wrestlers were watching. They were laughing, pointing. I could feel myself turning red, and I hated that most of all. I'm trying to do a job and they're treating it like one big joke. I thanked him and left as soon as I could."

"Athletes have professional respect for the media," said one reporter. "They feel we take potshots at them all season long, and here's their one opportunity to get back at us."

Professional wrestling has no mandated rules governing locker room behavior. It's every man for himself, and if you happen to be a woman it's rarely pleasant. But while Brandi's rookie experience flustered her, it hardly had her rethinking her career plans.

"They don't scare me at all," she smiled. "Like everything else in life, it just takes some getting used to." □

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OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—DIESEL

(-) WWF World champion

2—RAZOR RAMON

(3) WWF Intercontinental champion

3—HULK HOGAN

(2) WCW World champion

4—BOB BACKLUND

(7) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

5—JOHNNY B. BADD

(6) WCW TV champion

6—HACKSAW DUGGAN

(4) U.S. heavyweight champion

7—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

8—STING

(8) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

9—TONY ANTHONY

(13) Smoky Mountain champion

10—LEX LUGER

(12) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

11—KING KONG BUNDY

(9) No. 7 contender: WWF World title

12—THE UNDERTAKER

(5) No. 8 contender: WWF World title

13—SID VICIOUS

(10) USWA heavyweight champion

14—SHANE DOUGLAS

(-) ECW heavyweight champion

15—JEFF JARRETT

(-) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

WCW

1—HULK HOGAN

(1) 275, Venice Beach, CA

2—HACKSAW DUGGAN

(2) 280, Glens Falls, NY

3—JOHNNY B. BADD

(3) 235, Macon, GA

4—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

(10) 273, San Francisco, CA

5—STING

(7) 260, Venice Beach, CA

6—AVALANCHE

(-) 502, Montreal, Quebec

7—BIG VAN VADER

(5) 450, Denver, CO

8—THE HONKY TONK MAN

(6) 278, Memphis, TN

9—KEVIN SULLIVAN

(13) 252, Boston, MA

10—THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

(11) 310, Cobb County, GA

11—DUSTIN RHODES

(8) 254, Austin, TX

12—JEAN-PAUL LEVEQUE

(14) 279, Boston, MA

13—DAVE SULLIVAN

(9) 283, Boston, MA

14—BUNKHOUSE BUCK

(-) 239, Bucksport, TN

15—ALEX WRIGHT

(-) 222, Berlin, Germany

WWF

1—DIESEL

(-) 356, Las Vegas, NV

2—RAZOR RAMON

(2) 287, Miami, FL

3—BOB BACKLUND

(4) 234, Princeton, MN

4—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(8) 245, Leeds, England

5—JEFF JARRETT

(10) 230, Nashville, TN

6—LEX LUGER

(11) 265, Chicago, IL

7—TATANKA

(12) 250, Pembroke, NC

8—KING KONG BUNDY

(5) 446, Atlantic City, NJ

9—THE UNDERTAKER

(3) 328, parts unknown

10—OWEN HART

(6) 227, Calgary, Alberta

11—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

(13) 248, Syracuse, NY

12—ADAM BOMB

(7) 292, Harrisburg, PA

13—BAM BAM BIGELOW

(-) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

14—ALDO MONTOYA

(-) 225/Lisbon, Portugal

15—KWANG THE NINJA

(-) 250, parts unknown

MOST POPULAR

1—STING

Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

2—HULK HOGAN

Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

3—DIESEL

Last issue: unrated

4—RAZOR RAMON

Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

5—HACKSAW DUGGAN

Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

6—THE UNDERTAKER

Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

7—DAVEY BOY SMITH

Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

8—LEX LUGER

Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

9—JOHNNY B. BADD

Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

10—CACTUS JACK

Last issue: No. 14 Most Popular

11—BRET HART

Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

12—DUSTIN RHODES

Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

13—ADAM BOMB

Last issue: No. 13 Most Popular

14—TONY ANTHONY

Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular

15—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

Last issue: unrated

MOST HATED

1—BOB BACKLUND

Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

2—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

Last issue: unrated

3—SHAWN MICHAELS

Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

4—OWEN HART

Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

5—BIG VAN VADER

Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

6—TATANKA

Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

7—AVALANCHE

Last issue: unrated

8—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

9—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

Last issue: No. 12 Most Hated

10—SID VICIOUS

Last issue: unrated

11—JIM NEIDHART

Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

12—KEVIN SULLIVAN

Last issue: unrated

13—SPELLBINDER

Last issue: unrated

14—THE HONKY TONK MAN

Last issue: No. 11 Most Hated

15—SHANE DOUGLAS

Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

TOP 15

1—HARLEM HEAT

(12) WCW World tag team champions

2—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT

(1) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

3—BAM BAM BIGELOW & TATANKA

(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

4—THE GANGSTAS

(6) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

5—THE HEAVENLY BODIES

(10) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

6—THE NASTY BOYS

(4) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

7—THE BUSHWHACKERS

(7) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

8—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(11) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

9—PUBLIC ENEMY

(8) ECW tag team champions

10—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS

(5) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

11—THE MOONDOGS

(9) USWA tag team champions

12—THE HEADSHRINKERS

(13) No. 5 contenders: WWF World tag title

13—PG-13

(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

14—SABU & TASMANIAC

(-) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

15—WELL DUNN

(-) No. 6 contenders: WWF World tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended December 11, 1994

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

AAA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by Love Machine & Eddy Guerrero)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS
(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA
(October 22, 1994; from Steve Williams; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN KROFFAT
(July 12, 1994; from Masanobu Fuchi; Kagoshima, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSU HARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 10, 1994; beat Johnny Ace & Steve Williams in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA
(October 22, 1994; from Steve Williams; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYOTA
(August 24, 1994; beat Yoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KAORI ITO
(May 4, 1994; beat Rie Tamada in tournament final; Toda, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: AJA KONG
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CANDY OKUTSU
(December 6, 1993; from Chapparrita Asari; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MINAMI TOYOTA & TOSHIYO YAMADA
(December 6, 1993; from Dynamite Kansai & Mayumi Ozaki; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY RICHARD
(August 24, 1994; from Rick Cannon; Pigeon Forge, TN)

ALL-STATE WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: REGULATOR STEEL & REGULATOR STONE
(September 15, 1994; by forfeit, from Rick Conners & Lone Star; Maryville, TN)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: T. RANTULA
(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LORD ZOLTAN
(October 1, 1994; from Johnny Graham; Lewistown, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BAD CREW
(September 30, 1993; title previously vacant; York, PA)

AMERICAN STATES WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTT SOMERS
(November 19, 1993; from Bo Dacious; Mansfield, OH)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBY ROGERS
(December 4, 1993; from Blare Rogers; Hollywood, FL)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: T.J. JACKSON & THE MISER
(July 2, 1993; from American Scorpion & The Falcon; West Palm Beach, FL)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS
(December 4, 1993; from Vic Steamboat; Tewksbury, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT
(October 23, 1993; from The Iron Sheik; Wakefield, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(October 23, 1993; from Flex Lavender; Wakefield, MA)

ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS
(March 26, 1994; from Terry Funk; Devon, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PUBLIC ENEMY
(November 5, 1994; from Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: DEAN MALENKO
(November 4, 1994; from 2 Cold Scorpio; Hamburg, PA)

ICW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTTY McKEEVER
(October 29, 1994; beat The Untouchable in tournament final; Wallace, NC)

IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KONNAN
(April 2, 1994; from Cien Caras; Reynosa, Mexico)

IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI
(December 26, 1991; from Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY
(May 9, 1992; beat The Canadians in tournament final; Hamburg, PA)

IWGP CHAMPION: SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(May 1, 1994; from Tatsumi Fujinami; Fukuoka, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: HIROSHI HASE & THE GREAT MUTA
(November 25, 1994; from Kensuke Sasaki & Hawk; Iwate, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NORIO HONAGA

(September 27, 1994; beat Pegasus Kid in tournament final; Osaka, Japan)

MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MACHINE GUN KELLY
(July 16, 1994; from Al Snow; Taylor, MI)

MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS
(July 16, 1994; from Road Warrior Hawk & Bobo Brazil Jr.; Taylor, MI)

NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS CANDIDO
(November 19, 1994; beat Tracey Smothers in tournament final; Cherry Hill, NJ)

NWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI
(July 26, 1994; from Peggy Lee Leather; Chattanooga, TN)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA
(October 22, 1994; from Steve Williams; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSU HARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 10, 1994; beat Johnny Ace & Steve Williams in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ITALIAN STALLION
(November 12, 1994; from Terry Austin; Mooresville, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: FLAMING YOUTH
(August 19, 1994; from Brian Williams; Elkin, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAR RYDER & RAVISHING RANDY
(October 1, 1994; from Black Scorpion & Masked Maniac; North Wilkesboro, NC)

RIVER CITY WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: MAX IMPACT
(October 27, 1994; from Tom Steele; Winnipeg, Manitoba)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ANTHONY
(July 5, 1994; from Jake Roberts; Warrensville, NC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE GANGSTAS
(October 1, 1994; by officials' decision)

TRI-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SAM COLT
(December 9, 1994; from Jimmy Sharpe; Rossville, GA)

TRI-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROGER SARTAIN & JOEL TRAVIS
(September 29, 1994; from Cam & Sam Colt; Rossville, GA)

USWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SID VICIOUS
(July 16, 1994; by forfeit, from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(December 5, 1994; from Tommy Rich; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MOONDOGS
(November 21, 1994; title previously held up; Memphis, TN)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: JOHNNY B. BADD
(September 18, 1994; from Lord Steven Regal; Roanoke, VA)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: HACKSAW DUGGAN
(September 18, 1994; from Steve Austin; Roanoke, VA)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN
(July 17, 1994; from Ric Flair; Orlando, FL)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: HARLEM HEAT
(December 8, 1994; from The Patriot & Marcus Bagwell; Atlanta, GA)

WINDY CITY WRESTLING LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: STEVE BOZ
(November 5, 1994; from Christopher Daniels; Chicago, IL)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
(April 16, 1994; from Nailz; Atlantic City, NJ)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JACK HAMMER
(August 27, 1993; from Tony Atlas; Freeport, Bahamas)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(Most recently held by The Diamond Express)

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BAD ATTITUDE
(November 5, 1994; from Duane & Wayne Gill; Clementon, NJ)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA
(September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RAZOR RAMON
(August 29, 1994; from Diesel; Chicago, IL)

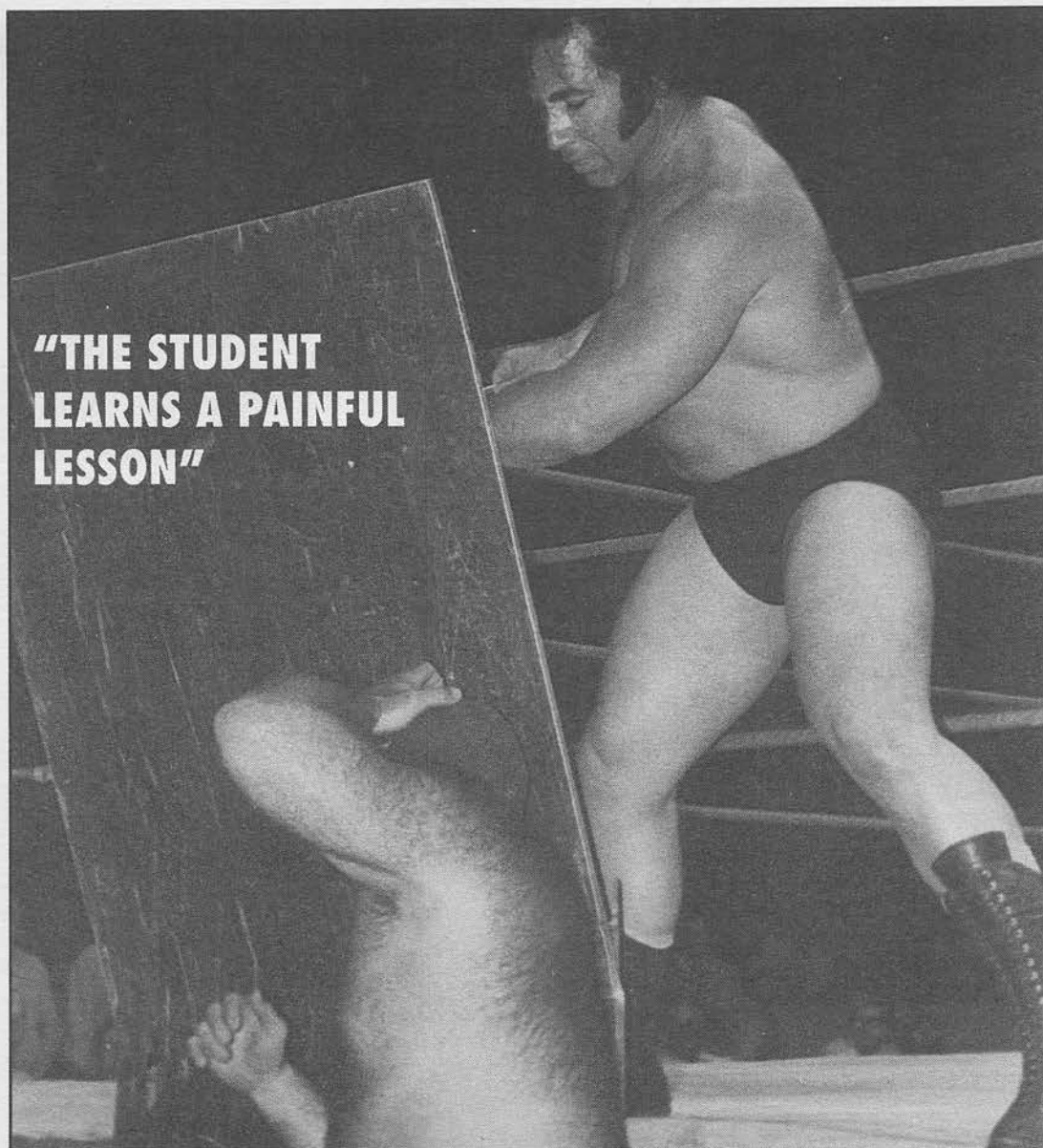
WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO
(November 20, 1994; from Alundra Blayze; Tokyo, Japan)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: DIESEL
(November 26, 1994; from Bob Backlund; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT
(Most recently held by Diesel & Shawn Michaels)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History

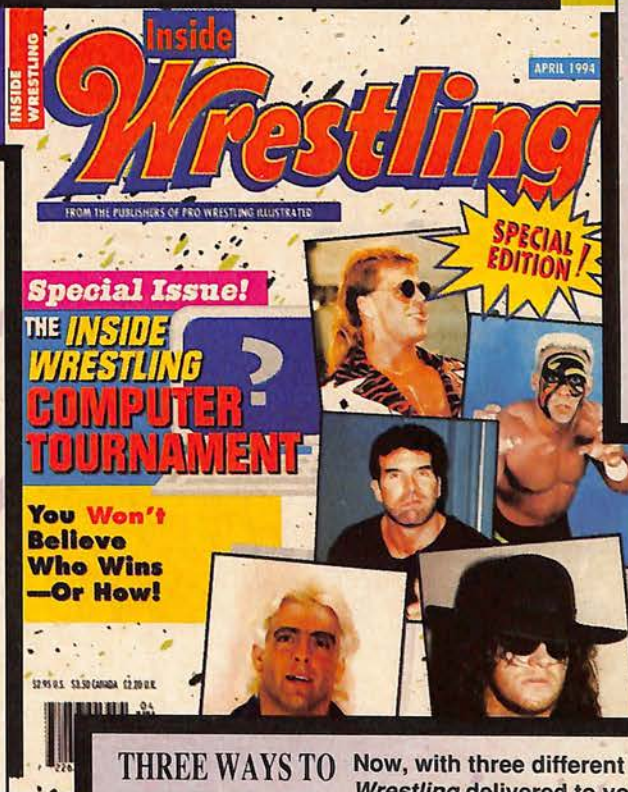


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